Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-062 *31 March 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, Palestinian Positions on Donors Aid Reported

TA3103104095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Mar 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will lift the bureaucratic obstacles that have been obstructing the transfer of dozens of millions of shekels to the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The funds should have been paid over to the PA in the wake of the mutual account settling of taxes. A statement to this effect will be made by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir at the upcoming meeting of representatives of countries contributing to the Palestinians that will be held in Washington next Monday.

The donors conference, which is defined as an informal preliminary encounter, will focus on the Palestinians' demand to receive international financing for the PA's and Palestinian police's running accounts at least until the end of this year. The donor states had agreed to finance the PA's expenses until April 1995, but the PA budget has run up a $250-million deficit.

The Palestinians will inform the donor representatives that tax collection in the Gaza Strip and West Bank is not proceeding as anticipated and that revenues are much lower than projected. They will also request expanding the financing to cover projects and development plans, asserting that the donors have not fully met their pledges.

At preliminary contacts held in anticipation of the meeting, donor state representatives brought up grave charges against Israel and the Palestinians. They that said the donors would not "finance a closure imposed by Israel" and that the Israeli authorities have unnecessarily delayed reimbursing the Palestinians for taxes and collecting custom duties for equipment donated by foreign countries. They further contended that PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has been running an overly centralist operation and that there is a lack of coordination among the PA's economic offices, which interferes with international aid efforts.

The Israeli delegation will further propose at the conference that the entire remainder of the aid pledged to the Palestinians—$20 million, scheduled to be disbursed over four years—should be invested in infrastructure for the first industrial park in the territories, in which Palestinians will find employment. Savir and a PA representative will present the joint plan for industrial parks before the donors representatives and at a special encounter with dozens of U.S. businesses organized by the U.S. agency for foreign investment insurance. All agreements achieved at the donor states conference in Washington will be brought up for the approval of the donors plenum due to be held on 24 April in Paris.

The interim-arrangement negotiations with the Palestinians continued this week. Senior political sources said yesterday that at the security talks held by Major General 'Uzi Dayan and General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, an attempt is being made to formulate a concept of the security arrangements to be introduced in the West Bank with the implementation of the interim arrangement. The sources said that no breakthrough has been achieved at the talks and that the plan for IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment outside Palestinian population centers has not yet been discussed.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Fundamentalists Meet in Khartoum

NC2903211695 Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 29 Mar 95

[By Muhammad 'Ali Sa'id]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, March 29 (AFP)—Islamic fundamentalists from 80 countries were gathering here Wednesday [29 March] ahead of a meeting to discuss "attacks on Islam" and the situation in hotbeds of Islamic-related violence such as Algeria, Afghanistan, Chechnya and Kashmir.

Hasan al-Turabi, secretary-general of the third session of the Islamic and Arab People's Conference opening Thursday, has said the 300 participants will discuss "Western attacks on Islam" and the disputed holy city of Jerusalem.

They will call also on Moslem nations not to sign an extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty if Israel refuses to sign it. The treaty's renewal is due to be discussed in New York in April and May.

The Palestinian fundamentalist movement Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Egyptian group Moslem Brotherhood have confirmed they will attend the three-day meeting.

Somali warlord 'Ali Mahdi Muhammad and a delegation representing his rival Muhammad Farah Aidid are also expected to attend, sources close to the two factions said.

Al-Turabi has no official position in Khartoum but is seen as the power behind the Islamic military regime in power in Sudan since a coup in June 1989 overthrew a civilian government.

Al-Turabi has denied the meeting is a gathering of Islamic fundamentalists, stressing that Palestinian organizations of all political persuasions will take part, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a non-religious movement which opposes the Middle East peace process.

Recalling that the conference had tried to mediate in Afghanistan and Algeria, the meeting's secretary-general said participants here would strive for "a spirit of

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conciliation and solutions that are acceptable both to governments and opposition movements."

Deputy secretary-general Ibrahim Sanusi commented, "This is not a meeting of opponents." He said the conference aimed to be pan-Islamic and non-governmental, in contrast to the ethnically-based Arab League or Organization of the Islamic Conference, composed of governments.

Sudan, on the US list of countries supporting terrorism, has never officially backed the conference, while playing host to its permanent headquarters and allowing the use of the Chinese-built Friendship Hall for its sessions.

The conference was set up in 1991 in the wake of the Gulf War, when Moslem radicals tended to be pro-Iraqi, often in opposition to their governments.

In its last session in December 1993, the 500 delegates condemned the Palestinian-Israeli autonomy agreement, calling instead for the foundation of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The conference also called for United Nations forces to quit Somalia and for a boycott of Serbia because of the war between Serbs and Moslems in the former Yugoslavia.

Other resolutions backed Moslem minorities in various p...ts of the world as well as the Sudanese regime in its war against Christian and animist rebels in the south of the country.

Shaykhs Travel to Israel on Official Visits

NC3003120295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic on 27 March publishes on pages 18 and 19 an approximately 2,500-word "political surprise" report by Wa'il al-Abrashi on visits to Israel by al-Azhar shaykhs. The correspondent first cites an interview he conducted with Egypt's Mufti Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi on whether he is willing to visit Israel and meet with Israelis. The mufti reiterates earlier statements that he welcomes a visit to Israel and Jerusalem if the invitation comes from Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and if such a visit serves the interests of Egypt and the cause of religion.

Asked if he would receive Israelis at the Fatwa Office, Tantawi answers: "I do not mind meeting anyone. If anybody, Israeli or non-Israeli, wishes to see me to ask about a specific religious matter, then I cannot prevent him because my job dictates that I answer questions within the limits of religion and my specialization. This is my job as a mufti, and my door is open to anyone, Israeli or otherwise." To the correspondent's remark that al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq has announced his rejection of a visit to Israel and of meetings with Israelis, Tantawi comments: "This is a matter of personal opinion. The issue is political, not religious. The positions of others are none of my business. I say what I believe, and if others say something different, then they are entitled to their views and opinions."

After this report on the interview with the mufti, the correspondent says: "This is what the mufti of the republic said, something that is important and serious as we see. We also see that dealings with Israel, through the Fatwa Office, take a public form." He adds: "We now move a few meters away [from the Fatwa Office], to holy al-Azhar, and there we find a different kind of secret normalization with Israel."

The correspondent then cites Shaykh Sayyid Sa'ud, "the second highest ranking official at al-Azhar," as saying that between 1980 and 1994 45 al-Azhar shaykhs officially traveled to Israel as representatives of al-Azhar and with the approval of the al-Azhar grand imam. Although those people were sent on religious and educational missions to the occupied territories, the correspondent says, they had to obtain visas from the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, travel in Israeli military cars, and go on religious-tourist visits to Jerusalem.

Shaykh Sa'ud says he himself visited Israel. "Yes, I visited Israel, but that was an educational mission and upon a decision by the al-Azhar shaykh," he is quoted as saying. Contending that "it is not crime for one to visit Israel, Sa'ud says: "Everything changed after al-Sadat's treaty [with Israel]."

The correspondent then asks Shaykh Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mutajalli, member of al-Azhar's Fatwa Committee and a man considered by his colleagues in the committee as a hawk, according to the correspondent, if he, too, visited Israel. 'Abd-al-Mutajalli answers: "I traveled to Israel, prayed in the al-Aqsa mosque, saw Jerusalem, and I am ready to do it again. There are no religious prohibitions, and there are no objections to visiting tourist attractions in Israel." To the correspondent's remark that the al-Azhar grand imam is adopting a hardline position toward travel to Israel, 'Abd-al-Mutajalli says: "It was al-Azhar who sent me. Al-Azhar was the first to bless the peace that al-Sadat concluded with Israel." He adds: "Al-Azhar has issued no fatwa against travel to Israel, and many of the al-Azhar shaykhs have traveled there."

Brotherhood Assailed; al-Azhar's 'New' Line Welcomed

NC3003152695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic on 27 March publishes on pages 30-32 an approximately 4,000-word article by Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi, a known critic of Islamic political groups, in which he discusses what he sees as a change in the positions of the Muslim Brotherhood group and the al-Azhar establishment.

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Al-'Ashmawi begins his article by stating that the Muslim Brotherhood, since it emerged on the political scene in 1928, "has offered only vague slogans, ambiguous talk, and loose expressions that define no clear policy and provide no carefully-planned programs." He then discusses how the Muslim Brotherhood began with the slogans of "apply Islamic shari'ah," and "the rule of God," but ended—as suggested by a statement the group issued in late 1994—with the acknowledgment that sovereignty resides in the people and with calls for a new man-made constitution and for a Western- style parliament.

Explaining that the Muslim Brotherhood's original slogans contained much "falsehood and confusion," and were meant "to deceive and cheat people for the benefit of a handful of agitators and saboteurs who sought money and power" by trading on Islam, al-'Ashmawi says that perhaps the group changed those slogans because it became convinced that the Islamic shari'ah is actually being applied in Egypt or because it "sensed that its trade became unmarketable, or because it felt defeated" when faced with a religious consensus.

Al-'Ashmawi comments by asking: "What has remained for the Muslim Brotherhood after this? What is the religious, legitimate, constitutional, legal, actual, or natural basis of a group that undermined all its foundations with its own hands, and refuted its ideology point after point?" He adds: "Is this group different from any other party, other than in using religion and shari'ah for worldly purposes, as it refutes its own words and proclaims what it refutes?" He goes on: "In fact, there is nothing left for the Muslim Brothers except the terrorism which they are spreading among the public, the violence which they justify and rationalize, the fear and horror which they sow in Egypt's safe land and in the souls of innocent people, and the assassinations, in which they use hired pens and vicious campaigns to harm the honorable ones who firmly stick to their principles."

In the second part of his article, al-'Ashmawi discusses what he sees as a "new," "enlightened" position by al-Azhar and its rector "in opposing and fighting against all the slogans brandished by the political Islam trend." Al-'Ashmawi says that earlier al-Azhar and its devotees expressed positions "which many local and foreign observers saw as inclining toward terrorism and extremism." Then, the writer says, "everybody was surprised to see his eminence the shaykh of al-Azhar coming up with new views and sound statements denouncing terrorism and supporting reason and enlightenment." Al- 'Ashmawi then cites many recent statements by the al-Azhar shaykh in which he reportedly declared that Egypt's laws conform with the Islamic shari'ah, that the old system of the Islamic caliphate is not suitable for this age, that the political Islam groups that spread death and terrorism are violating the principles of Islam, and that no one should be accused of blasphemy.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 21 Mar

NC3003110395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 21 March edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Report Denies Terrorists Infiltrated Al-Azhar University
2. Al-Azhar on Efforts To Confront Extremist, Secular Thought
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4. Al-Azhar Shaykh Blames Saddam for Muslims' Sedition
5. Writer Criticizes Western Attempts To Distort Islam
6. Columnist Blames Israel for Not Signing NPT

REPORT DENIES TERRORISTS INFILTRATED AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY

In a second installment of a report on whether extremist students have infiltrated al-Azhar University, Jamal Salim, in a 2,000-word report on pages 1 and 3, notes that al-Azhar ulema and professors reject accusations that extremist students have infiltrated al-Azhar University. They say that this accusation is a new "secular plot" intended to distort the mission of al-Azhar as the oldest Islamic university. They stress that the al-Azhar professors and ulema have always played an outstanding role in confronting the phenomenon of ideological extremism and deviation in Egypt and outside. A security source also denied that there are terrorists in the al-Azhar University and called for drawing a line between "terrorists" who carry arms and "extremists" who hold rigid views, saying that it is the duty of the al-Azhar professors to enlighten and guide them.

Al-Azhar professor Hasan 'Uwaydah says that al-Azhar University is for all Muslims and it "cannot close its doors to any Muslim even if he was a terrorist or extremist" because they come to study Islam from its authentic origins. He says that the religious colleges accepted students from other Egyptian universities and received instructions to increase the teaching hours with these students to learn their thoughts and correct them. He calls on other Egyptian universities to teach Islamic studies to protect their students from deviation.

Professor Mahmud Zaqzuq says he does not believe that any extremist or terrorist will really have a desire to join the religious colleges. He says that even if some extremists infiltrated al-Azhar, the ulema will bring them back to the right path teaching them the true Islamic principles. He says that extremist students will have the opportunity to learn Islam from its authentic sources and that leveling accusations at this experiment is premature. Professor Muhmmad al-Fayyumi maintains that al-Azhar University has never been a haven for extremism or terrorism and that this accusation is false and biased and is aimed at "instigating" the political authorities against the source of propagation of religious education. He argues that the

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enemies of Islam are there to distort the image of Islam and to destroy any effort leading to the propagation of Islam. He claims that secularists and nationalists level such accusations because they do not want Islam to spread. He notes that the government sought the help of al-Azhar ulema to hold a dialogue with the extremists in jails and that they managed to bring them back to the right path. Professor 'Alawi Khalil hopes all extremists will join al-Azhar so that it can correct their thinking and bring them back to the right path.

AL-AZHAR ON EFFORTS TO CONFRONT EXTREMIST, SECULAR THOUGHT

A 120-word report on page 2 notes that the new board of the al-Azhar Ulema Front has been formed under Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Birri. In a statement to 'AQIDATI, Dr. al-Birri says that the next stage will see practical efforts to concert the efforts of al-Azhar Mosque, al-Azhar University, the Awqaf Ministry, and other Islamic societies for the propagation of Islam. He said: We will do all we can to confront both the extremist and secular thoughts through seminars and books.

COLUMN CRITICIZES WESTERN CALLS TO FIGHT ISLAM

An 'AQIDATI-signed 750-word column on page 3 says that voices are raised in the West every now and then calling for confronting and fighting all forms of Islam. The column notes that in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, these voices and calls became more extremist. They are now not content with the call to fight Islam but place Islam on the frontlines of confrontation with the West. The NATO secretary, the column notes, has "unequivocally and brazenly" declared that Islam has become the West's No. 1 enemy after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Responding to the NATO secretary's call, Islam's scholars stressed that Islam is not a religion of war or enmity but peace and tolerance. The "rabid campaigns" in the West against Islam affirm that those opposed to Islam hate the truth. The Westerners cannot live without a rival enemy, the column claims, and so after the collapse of the Soviet Union they made Islam their enemy. The column argues that the Muslims in the world are fragmented and in disarray and so they cannot pose a threat to the world. The column blames certain Muslims who made the tolerant religion look extremist and rigid, making the people resent Islam. It praises Crown Prince Charles, who makes a distinction between the Islamic religion and the behavior of certain Muslims who harm Islam.

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH BLAMES SADDAM FOR MUSLIMS' SEDITION

In a 600-word article entitled "The Islamic Nation and its Present" on page 7, al-Azhar Mosque rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq says that the Islamic nation is passing through a historic juncture and encountering a "difficult ordeal buffeting its present and threatening its future." He says that the sedition afflicting the Islamic nation was kindled by one of its rulers who flouted the Islamic teachings. Saddam Husayn, he says, invaded a neighboring country, violating its honor and plundering its wealth. He refused to heed reason and back down on his atrocity. He maintains that Saddam Husayn still persists in his tyranny, obduracy, and vanity, defying the whole world. Saddam, he says, has "embroiled" the region in "a difficult predicament" and major sedition, the future of which no one can tell. Jad-al-Haq says the situation requires wise and patient efforts, careful assessment of the situation, and far-sightedness to address it.

WRITER CRITICIZES WESTERN ATTEMPTS TO DISTORT ISLAM

In a 500-word column on page 8, Majdi Salim notes that during his recent meeting with al-Azhar Mosque rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq, Crown Prince Charles stressed his rejection of the attempts to distort the image of Islam in the West. Salim claims that the Western media's distortion of Islam is led by the Zionist circles there. He says that these circles harbor "bad intentions" to the Islamic World, particularly Egypt. He cites the LE FIGARO Cairo correspondent's report, which claims that the Egyptian regime that hunts down the terrorists is the same one that cajoles and supports the Islamic men of religion who confront and oppose creative writers and artists. He says that the LE FIGARO report mixes extremism and Islam and does not show a difference between the two.

COLUMNIST BLAMES ISRAEL FOR NOT SIGNING NPT

A 300-word report on page 20 by 'Adil Dayf notes that Israel is raising an international uproar over Egypt's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] while the world media ignored the fact that it was Israel that originally refused to sign the treaty. He says that Israel seeks through the world media to show that the problem lies in Egypt's refusal to sign the NPT, even though the opposite is true. He notes that the United States and other countries ignore the fact that Israel has not to date recognized the NPT because it has nuclear weapons. He says that Egypt has no nuclear weapons and demands that the whole region be cleared of such weapons. He argues that the world should back Egypt's stance because it stems from a sense of responsibility toward the Egyptian, Arab, and Islamic peoples.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni Comments on Talks With Israelis

NC3103103395 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 31 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian Authority official responsible for Jerusalem, in Jerusalem, by Fayiz al-Miliji in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Miliji] Mr. Faysal, good morning and welcome at the beginning of this dialogue on Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

[Al-Miliji] While a round of talks was being held in Cairo between the Palestinian and the Israeli negotiators, another round of meetings of the Security Committee was taking place in Tel Aviv to discuss the redeployment issue. Could you tell us about the results of these two sets of negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, negotiations regarding the two subjects used to take place at the same time. However, so far, we have not seen any actual progress in either of these sets of talks. Israel still raises many questions and broaches many issues, particularly with regard to the elections. We need to talk about elections more in the spotlight, while we prefer to hold the other negotiations behind the scenes. According to the most recent details we have, Israel is presenting some problems, particularly with regard to the elections on the West Bank.

[Al-Miliji] Could you fill us in on the differences and points of agreement?

[Al-Husayni] I could say that the basic conflict now pertains to the nature of the [elected] council, the number of members on the council, and the rights of the Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem—that is, if they should have the right to be nominated and to vote. I believe these are the basic articles that we still disagree about. If you ask me about the points of agreement, there is general agreement that elections should be held for the council members and the head, and these two elections should be separate from each other. They might take place at the same time, but the election of the head of the council should take place in parallel with the election of the council.

[Al-Miliji] Regarding the issue of Jerusalem and the participation of the residents of Jerusalem in the nominating process and voting in the coming elections, does Israel still reject this?

[Al-Husayni] Israel still insists that the Palestinians of Jerusalem have the right to vote, but not to be nominated, which goes against the text of the agreement. The agreement says that the Palestinians have the right to participate in the elections, and participation means in every way.

[Al-Miliji] Let us move to the subject of the Security Committee, which met in Tel Aviv. The subject of redeployment is undoubtedly one of the most important topics of discussion between you and the Israelis. How far have you progressed on this issue?

[Al-Husayni] I cannot say anything about where we are with respect to this topic, but I can concentrate on the major points of disagreement. As for us, we believe that the redeployment of the forces and their withdrawal from the cities and residential areas means a comprehensive withdrawal of the Israeli forces from inside these cities to distances and positions that are agreed upon. Therefore, the issue of security in these areas becomes the business of the Palestinians.

The Israelis are so far still trying to suggest that there are areas from which they can withdraw and others from which they cannot withdraw. They suggest the possibility that the Army units will withdraw but that Israeli police forces will take their place, which we completely reject.

They are trying to highlight the point that their withdrawal from some areas will threaten the security of some settlements and will create problems of movement for some settlements. We believe that the issue lies in elections, not settlements. Therefore, we believe that wherever there is a problem regarding the settlements, the settlement must be removed. Israel must not continue to occupy that town, or district, or village.

[Al-Miliji] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, it is well-known that there is a general agreement between you and the Israelis that 1 July is the date for the elections. In light of what has been accomplished in the meetings of the Cairo delegation and the Jerusalem delegation, do you believe that by that date the election issue will be solved?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that we still have some time, at least we have another month to reach agreement; and after that, I believe two months are enough to make all the preparations for the elections. Therefore, I still believe that elections can be held at the set time.

[Al-Miliji] Regarding the recent Gaza incident, the accident, what effect has it had on relations between you and the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, this is being investigated. It is clear, at least from our point of view, that the incident was a normal traffic accident. But the Israelis immediately described it as the deliberate killing of the driver of the truck, who left the truck with his hands held over his head. They accused him of carrying weapons, but then it became clear that the weapons he had in the truck with him was a toy gun. I do not believe that under these circumstances a person would get out of his truck carrying a toy gun with which to threaten someone. Perhaps this toy gun was in the car because it belongs to his son or another member of his family.

[Al-Miliji] Mr. Faysal, the question that begs an answer pertains to the behavior of the Israelis regarding this incident. Can this behavior be explained within the framework of the peace spirit?

[Al-Husayni] It is very clear that the Israeli mentality, their way of thinking or behavior, is not consistent with the mentality of someone who wants peace. So far they have been treating us like they are occupiers, they are the ones who should be in control of everything. They are acting hostile toward us. I believe that through their behavior, be

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it the behavior of a group, individual, or the government, they are rapidly ruining this political peace process.

[Al-Miliji] President Husni Mubarak starts his visit to the United States starts tomorrow. Of course, many Arab issues will be discussed by President Mubarak and U.S. officials. What are your aspirations for President Mubarak's visit to the United States?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, we believe that this visit comes at a very important time. The United States is behaving like many other countries—that is, as though peace is already established between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and the Arabs and the Israelis. Therefore, everyone should move toward normalization. What has been agreed upon, even by the Arab League, is that there is this trend among some Arab countries to rush headlong toward Israel. This is not restricted to the Arab countries, but also includes some other countries. What is important about this visit at this time is that it should be clarified to the United States that the peace process has not been finalized and that we still have before us a great many things to do. Even with a country like Egypt, which has a history of many years of peace with Israel, the latter still insists on keeping its nuclear weapons and refuses to sign the same agreement that Egypt signed. I believe that Egypt's position is a sign to everyone that peace cannot be achieved by one side alone. Either both sides take steps toward peace, or such a peace will be worthless. I believe this message should be delivered to the United States very clearly, particularly in light of the provocative Israeli behavior which hampers any progress on the peace process particularly on the Palestinian track.

[Al-Miliji] Dear listeners, to conclude this dialogue, we thank you and we thank Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, the official responsible for Jerusalem in the Palestinian National Authority. We also thank Mr. al-Husayni for being our guest. Thank you.

[Al-Husayni] You are very welcome.

Minister's Entry to West Bank Banned by Israel

JN3003212295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli occupation forces stationed at the Erez crossing banned Minister of Justice Furayh Abu-Middayn from going to the Palestinian West Bank today. The reasons for this arbitrary measure are unknown.

PA Agrees to Netzarim Bypass; Commander on Gaza 'Accident'

TA3003180495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that, in recent days, the Palestinian Authority [PA] has agreed to pave a bypass road to Netzarim that will keep Israelis and Palestinians from using the Qarni checkpoint. The police minister disclosed that he raised the matter several weeks ago in his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, but the Palestinians rejected it at the time.

The Palestinian Police is claiming that last night's incident at the Qarni checkpoint was an ordinary road accident. General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the PA police, held a news conference in Gaza this afternoon at which he accused Israel of responsibility for the death of the truck driver, Mufid Hajaj. Yusuf said that Hajaj did not belong to any political organization in the Gaza Strip and had a permit allowing him to enter Israel. He said that the collision with the Border Police jeep was not deliberate.

Gaza Chamber of Commerce Discusses Impact of Closure

TA3003162795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Mar 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, QUDS PRESS—Palestinian economists in the Gaza Strip have said that the continuation of the Israeli military siege imposed on the Gaza Strip has caused great financial damage to the Palestinians. Muhammad al-Qidrah, head of the Gaza Strip Chamber of Commerce, estimated the Strip's losses from the continuation of the Israeli siege at about $6 million per day. He pointed out that the closure has caused damage in many economic spheres.

The Palestinian economists warned against the danger of the continuation of the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip since 22 January. At a large gathering held yesterday at the office of the Gaza Strip Chamber of Commerce, the economists called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] and President Yasir 'Arafat to intervene seriously to prevent the continuation of the Israeli closure policy, which is threatening the Palestinian economy with total destruction.

The participants decided to set up a follow-up committee to monitor the closure's developments and repercussions, adopt the appropriate decisions regarding them, and review the closure's negative economic effects. Al-Qidrah said the Palestinians can close the Erez crossing point from the Palestinian side if Israel continues its blockade of the Gaza Strip.

The PA decided to ban the import of Israeli products, with the exception of basic commodities. Palestinians in the Gaza Strip said that yesterday, in protest against Israel's continued closure of the Strip, the PA turned back Israeli trucks en route to the Gaza Strip to unload their cargo.

Sha'th Meets Donor States Delegation

JN3003171895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Mar 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

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[FBIS Translated Text] With the participation of Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, and Mr. Terry Larson, UN coordinator at the National Authority, donor states' representatives held a meeting at al-Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza today. The conferees discussed developing and improving international aid to the Palestinian economy. After the meeting, Dr. Sha'th said the Palestinian budget for next year, which amounts to $244 million, was discussed at the meeting. He said discussion also dealt with what the donor states have offered last year and what they will offer next year. Dr. Sha'th added that the donor states had promised, in the past, to offer $600 million for next year. He noted that these donor states did not pay the $500 million they promised to offer last year.

Dr. Sha'th described this meeting as positive and fruitful in which the conferees focused on the fact that a greater part of the problem lies in the military siege Israel is imposing on the Palestinian territories. Dr. Sha'th said that the military siege has caused many problems for investors. He noted the need for the donor states to fulfill their promises and for Israel to lift the military siege. Dr. Sha'th said he and a delegation of Palestinian experts, as well as Minister of Finance Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, will attend a preparatory meeting with donor states to be held in Washington on 3 April. The delegation will also go to Paris on 24 April.

Norway's Larsen Comments on Closure Impact

TA3003192995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Norway's Terje Larsen, coordinator of UN activities with the Palestinian Authority [PA], said the Israeli closure restricting the movement of the Palestinian population and Palestinian goods harms development plans international organizations are trying to promote in the PA. He added that the weakness of the Palestinian institutions and poor coordination between them and the UN agencies are also delaying the implementation of the plans. This year, Larsen said, there is a great deal of money available for the most vital plans, but the closure slows down their implementation. Larsen was addressing representatives from 30 donor states to the PA. He said that the residents of Gaza are starting to see results from the international activity but that the closure is impeding those efforts. The UN official reported that there have been 300 days of closure, which caused approximately $600 million damage to the Palestinians, more than the donations from abroad.

'Arafat Receives U.S. Congressional Delegation

JN3003171595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a delegation of Jewish U.S. Congress members at the Presidential Office in Gaza this morning. During the meeting, the two sides discussed a number of issues dealing with Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and obstacles facing the peace process. On his part, Mr. Harold, head of the delegation, said the meeting with President 'Arafat was positive and that they discussed the obstacles facing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

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Algeria

Papers Carry Communique From GIA Leader

LD3003150395 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the fate of the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] leader, who was reported killed yesterday by certain sources, once again made the headlines of the Algerian press today. This morning, EL WATAN and several other dailies published a text signed by him in which he admitted that he lost more than 100 men during an offensive by the security forces last week against the fundamentalists' strongholds, in which a number of fundamentalist leaders were killed.

EL WATAN takes the view that the GIA leader's communique may have been written just before the latest army offensive, during which he might have perished.

The family of Djamal Zitouni—the GIA leader's name—is reported to have announced that he is still alive.

Security Services Kill 18 'Criminals'

LD3003195995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services today said that 18 criminals have been liquidated during various operations in Boumardes, Mostaganem, Tipasa, Batna, and Relizane.

The security services statement explained that during these operations their forces managed to recover a quantity of weapons and ammunition.

Sources Deny Madani, Belhadj Moved To New Sites

LD3003165395 Algiers Radio Algiers in Berber 1200 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some reports have recently been spread abroad that the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders [Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj] have been moved to different locations. APS, our news agency, referring to official sources, has denied these reports. Ghania:

[Ghania] As you said Samira, according to these reports the two leaders of the outlawed FIS have been moved to different locations. Accordingly, Mr. Abassi Madani is reported to have been moved to Douira while Mr. Ali Belhadj is reported to have been taken to Tipaza. These reports also concerned our army and retired army generals.

A national official source denied these reports saying that the source which spread this information with the help of some quarters—be they Algerians or foreigners—intended to undermine Algeria which is currently going through radical changes. Those who are behind this have acted deliberately at the moment when Algeria is taking a big step forward with the preparation of the presidential elections, the regaining of control of the security situation, and the holding of national dialogue, the source added.

Cherif: 'People's Will' Must Resolve Crisis

LD3003162095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, minister of interior and local authorities, is visiting Tiaret Province where he has inspected several projects. On this occasion, he delivered a speech to local officials and talked about the roots of the crisis facing the country. Over to our correspondent Larbi Zouag for more details:

[Zouag] In a lengthy speech before senior officials of Tiaret Province, Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, minister of interior, environment, local authorities and administrative reform, yesterday talked about the roots of the bloody crisis which Algeria is facing today, starting with the acute disagreements of 1962. He also talked about the way the burdens of the revolution seeped through the state institutions after independence and also about the mistakes made in the seventies when profits were given to the workers of bankrupt enterprises and factories.

The interior minister talked about the total deviation from all patriotic values at the start of the eighties and about the sham democracy in the nineties. In addition to that, the minister said, throughout the independence period our reality and heritage embodied in our Amazigh roots and our membership of Arab and Islamic civilization were ignored and trampled on. As a result, he added, all the shortcomings have become obvious now. Therefore the road of recovery has become clear to everyone. All those who are sincere and loyal must take that road, he said, in the interest of this homeland and this people.

After talking about the dangers of the violence which is shaking Algeria today, as a result of the material and moral damage it has caused and is still causing to all sections of society, the minister said that the decisive step in the recovery is a return to the people's will, which alone will determine who will govern the country and will lead the people toward the realization of their aspirations and hopes. [passage omitted]

Report on 'Relatively Fresh U.S. Approach' to Crisis

LD3003213395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Clinton has commented on the crisis in Algeria.

The U.S. President said that his country is under no illusions as to the danger represented by religious radicalism. Here is Mouloud Belabdi:

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[Belabdi] When he received the new Algerian ambassador to Washington last Monday, U.S. President Bill Clinton did say, in effect, that the United States supports the goal of a stable and prosperous Algeria. Extremist violence, President Clinton said, is an obstacle to that goal. He added that there is no excuse for the murdering of innocent people. Finally, the U.S. President expressed U.S. support for all endeavors in the direction of dialogue and democracy.

For his part, Mr. Warren Christopher said on Tuesday that the situation in Algeria is a matter of great concern and that the United States had encouraged the Algerian Government not just to be firm in the measures it adopts, but also to proffer its hand to the moderates in the opposition willing to reject violence.

This successive reiteration of stances at the highest level of the U.S. Administration, without being entirely new in the context of the ambivalent approach to the Algerian situation that has characterized the State Department's policy to date, nevertheless merits attention on at least two counts:

First there is the statement by President Clinton himself that the United States is under no illusions as to the danger of radicalism and that it supports the goal of a stable and prosperous Algeria, while recognizing that extremist violence is an obstacle to the pursuit of that goal and that there is no excuse for the killing of innocent people.

Then there is the explicit recognition by the U.S. secretary of state of the Algerian Government's duty to take a firm stand on terrorism, plus the recognition of that government's need to maintain its capacity to protect law and order.

It may be that this relatively fresh U.S. approach to the situation has been brought about by the reality on the ground and, at the same time, by a series of articles that have appeared lately in the U.S. press—especially, it must be noted, in THE WASHINGTON POST, which has relevantly reported on the other, nonviolent Algeria that is made up of the overwhelming majority who aspire to nothing but peace and are tired of burying their dead, to quote the American journalist's words.

UGTA's Benhamouda Meets Zeroual, Backs Elections

LD3003205395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Continuing his consultations with political parties and organizations on the presidential elections, President Liamine Zeroual received UGTA [Algerian General Workers Union] Secretary General Abdelhak Benhamouda at the presidential palace this morning. [passage omitted]

After the meeting Abdelhak Benhamouda made a statement to the press. Our reporter Hocine Bourada was present:

[Begin recording] [Benahmouda] The meeting was an opportunity for the UGTA to reiterate a number of its principled stands on this matter, including our support for presidential elections for objective reasons—because part of the political crisis is the political parties themselves. Consequently, we prefer to fight the presidential elections because the latter is not a partisan issue but a fight between individuals and their programs. Therefore, the parties can support any candidate who might be close to them, who might be their own candidate, or who might belong to their tendency. At the same time we can overcome many problems including the problem of legal or illegal representation of parties which are still legal or of those which have been dissolved. [passage omitted]

[Bourada] In the event of solving the crisis before the date of the elections—can there be a political solution before the date of the elections, through the preliminary consultations which you have held with the head of state?

[Benhamouda] Naturally, everything is possible. It is possible that the beginning of the end of the crisis could take place with the launch of the preparations for these elections. Also, it is possible that preparations for these elections...[pauses]... also, it is possible that the success of the preparation and the success of the elections themselves could herald the end of the crisis. Nonetheless, one cannot be certain because the consultations are still progressing and there are other parties to have their say. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Martyrs' Children Group To Enter Elections

LD3003134195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Organization of Martyrs' Children will take part in the presidential elections. This was announced today by Mr. Tahar Benbaibeche, the organization's secretary general, during a regional seminar of cadres in Naama. He welcomed an open dialogue saying that the homeland needed a unified patriotic current capable of taking it out of this crisis.

Sub-Saharan Refugees To Be Regrouped Before Deportation

LD3103000595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint ministerial commission, which has been entrusted to follow up the implementation of the head of government's instructions on the administration of foreign nationals residing in the southern most provinces of the country, met at the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities.

An Interior Ministry's statement indicated that the green light was given at this meeting, which was attended by the governors of the provinces of Adrar and Tamanrasset, to officially launch the task of regrouping the refugees from Mali and Niger at the purposely built refugee camps at the provinces of Tamanrasset, Adrar, and Illizi.

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The above refugee camps were, however, equipped with all the necessary facilities in accordance with the standards set up by the UNHCR.

Furthermore, the Interior Ministry's statement pointed out that such action was aiming at creating the suitable conditions for the permanent return of the refugees to their countries of origin without any prejudice to the excellent fraternal relations between Algeria and both Mali and Niger, which have marked by good cooperation, friendship, and good-neighborliness.

At the end, the statement evoked the quadripartite accord, signed by Algeria, Mali, Niger, the UNHCR, and the FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization] on 23 August 1994 on the repatriation of the Malian refugees in Algeria and the need to reintegrate them economically and socially in Mali.

Egypt

Four Muslim Brotherhood Leaders Arrested

NC3003172995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—The security forces have arrested four leaders of the dissolved and banned Muslim Brotherhood [MB] organization after monitoring the terrorist movements of a number of the organization's leaders that revealed the extent of their involvement in terrorist practices and in preparing for their organizational operations from centers they have outside of Egyptian territory.

This was stated today by a responsible security source in the Interior Ministry. It said those arrested were:

—Musataf Muhammad Darwish. He was arrested at Cairo Airport while trying to travel to Turkey, from where he would have gone to Croatia through another European country in order to be trained in the use of weapons.

—Husayn Muhammad al-Sharqawi, who returned to Egypt last Saturday [25 March] to convey instructions to active elements in the country. He was scheduled to flee abroad on 28 March but was arrested before he could do so.

—Anwar Anwar Sa'dallah Ahmad al-Turki who works with the Humanitarian Relief Committee in Albania.

—Jum'ah Imam 'Abd-al-Mu'ti, an employee in the Doctors' Association.

The source added: The collected information was presented to the State Security's Prosecution Office, which ordered the arrest of all the elements involved in this movement. Money was found with the four when searched, including 10,565 Egyptian Pounds, $2,785, and 42,685 German Marks, in addition to other Arab and foreign currencies. The security forces also found with them a number of computer discs, documents on financial transactions and the activities of the Humanitarian Relief Committee, a number of video cassettes about the dissolved organization's activities, a fax machine, two telephone directories, and a Casio personal organizer.

The security source went on to say in its statement that the observation and monitoring operation carried out by the State Security's Intelligence Department lasted three months and resulted in identifying the extent and objectives of these activities, as follows:

—Exploiting the Doctors Association's Humanitarian Relief Committee to arrange the travel of MB youth abroad under the cover of working on relief projects or on commercial projects in Somalia, Burundi, Yemen, areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia in the former Yugoslavia.

—Exploiting the military conflicts in some of the above countries and areas to get military training on the use of weapons and explosives and prepare the MB elements psychologically and physically so that they would become organizational terrorist cells and centers upon return to the country.

—Joining extremist religious organizations, especially the terrorist Islamic Group and sending some elements to receive the same military training programs given to the MB elements in the above areas. This was also an attempt to remove ideological differences between the dissolved MB and the extremist organizations.

—Implementing a plan to use extremist terrorist organizations as the military wing of the dissolved MB and to militarily train cadres from both sides away from the security forces' observation so as to ensure the MB's control of the extremist groups' directions.

The security source added that the Egyptian security forces succeeded in identifying the leading MB group that was in charge of this action, which followed the usual organizational methods used by terrorists. The leading group includes MB executive leader Ashraf 'Abd-al-Halim 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, a member of the Doctors Association's board, who is abroad.

It said that information collected by monitoring the leaders showed that they had exploited the Doctors Association in order to hide the MB's organizational papers and documents, dispatch a number of extremist and MB elements who do not belong to the Association abroad to take part in military conflicts, wars, and civil strife in some countries and areas, in order to get military and hard physical training and get training in the use of weapons and explosives. This process started with the Afghan war and then moved to Bosnia- Herzegovina and Somalia, and there were plans to move next to Chechnya.

The monitoring process also succeeded in obtaining information to the effect that elements abroad had sent cash in foreign currency to the leaders in Egypt so they

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could continue to send members—under the cover of working for the Doctors Association's Humanitarian Relief Committee—to the scenes of conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina to receive advanced military training prior to being formed into groups that would carry out tasks entrusted to them. The leaders in the country were provided with identity cards for a number of MB and extremist elements as well as some other documents. The executive leadership used international telephone and fax lines to manage the action and coordinate between the elements inside and outside the country.

The source said that the Higher State Security Prosecution Office has been informed so as to start its interrogation of the arrested terrorists.

Five 'Terrorists' Killed by Security Forces

NC3003174295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—Five terrorists were killed at dawn today in a clash with the security forces in the farming area of Hawd al-Jana'in in (Kafr Kharam) village, Markaz Dayr Musa in al-Minyah Governorate in Upper Egypt, which terrorists are using as their den.

This was stated by a responsible security source in the Interior Ministry, who said that the operation was part of the all-out security confrontation with the terrorist elements in al-Minyah Governorate, especially those behind the recent violent attacks in Upper Egypt.

The source said that the five terrorists were 'Adil Mahran Zayn Mahran, who was born in 1972 in Dayrut, Asyut, and had a BS from Asyut University. He was one of the terrorists in Asyut and carried out his activities in the Governorates of Asyut, al-Minya, and al- Jizah. He took part in a number of terrorist attacks and assassinations in Markaz Dayrut and Markaz Abu Qurqas in al-Minya, targeting officers and personnel of the police. He was accused in a number of extremist cases.

The second was 'Abd-al-Sattar Sayyid Isma'il from Bani Shuqayr village, Manfalut, Asyut. The third was Mustafa Kamil Hasan Muhammad, also from Bani Shuqayr village, Manfalut, Asyut; and the fourth was Usamah Salah 'Abdallah from (Kafr Kharam) village in al-Minya. They took part in a number of terrorist incidents against the police force in Markaz Mallawi and Markaz Abu Qurqas.

The source added that the identity of the fifth terrorist is now being checked. He noted that an automatic rifle and some pistols were found near the terrorists' corpses and that a dragnet operation is continuing. It was noted that some of the corpses had scars from old bullet wounds.

Security Chief on 'Terrorism,' Muslim Brotherhood

NC2803103795 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 22 Mar 95 p 6

[Interview with Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar, director of security in al-Minya Governorate, by unidentified correspodent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-AHALI] How do you assess the security situation and can you explain the relative respite in terrorist acts?

['Umar] I was appointed two months ago and given wide powers to confront the terrorist elements. For me, there is no difference between those who call themselves the Islamic Group and those who call themselves the Muslim Brotherhood. Based on this, I worked out my plan for confrontation, which, of course, I cannot make public. But achieving a maximum state of alert, applying instructions with extreme precision, and trying to obtain the greatest amount of cooperation at a minimal cost—especially regarding getting information from citizens—are the plan's main features.

I believe the current calm is due to the success of our security plan. We dealt blows to every terrorist hideout, and this threw them off balance. We also ensured citizens' safety when they provided information, which helped us gather a decent amount of information. Our superiority has been evident recently. The terrorist groups carried out no major operations, only operations that showed their tension and despair, like attacks on second-class policemen and sentries en route to their homes. These attacks indicate that the structure of the terrorist organization has collapsed, and that some individuals are acting randomly; their fall is now imminent. [passage omitted]

[AL-AHALI] Why, then, did you decide that the 'Id prayers be held only in mosques [they are usually held in large public squares]? Does this not hurt the feelings of ordinary people?

['Umar] The decision was made for two main reasons: First, security in the governorate and the presence of extremist trends there. Second, the decision was a test balloon for the position of those who call themselves "Muslim Brothers." They daily announce that they are against terrorism and support any measures that minimize losses. Regrettably, they failed the test. They tried to violate the decision, but the security forces were alert to them. It became clear that they are not much different from those terrorists. As for people's feelings, citizens understood the decision. The mosques were full, and after prayers, citizens took to the streets to express their joy. The 'Id passed without any terrorist incident.

[AL-AHALI] Where are the remaining resistance pockets?

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['Umar] The terrorists are in their home villages or in villages where they have relatives. They spend the day in sugarcane plantations and then go to houses to hide. We are watching them, but some families are helping them. The villagers [al-sha'biyun] are not giving us any information about the movements of these terrorists or the houses in which they hide. The terrorists sometimes enter houses by force, using their terrorism against poor families; people do not report this to us.

[AL-AHALI] Some people cooperated and gave information, but they were killed.

['Umar] Those people were publicly boasting of their relationship with the security forces. But since I started work I have adopted the method of secret reporting through my private telephone. We scored many successes, and none of our informants has been killed. This has alarmed the terrorists. [passage omitted]

[AL-AHALI] What about popular resentment over the expansion of the circle of suspects?

['Umar] I met with villagers, who explained their fears. They said the security forces knew those young men, and they wondered why they had not been arrested. I told them I was concerned with the present, and they promised to cooperate, but they did not. Although we have a large information base about the terrorists, we still need to know their movements and hiding places. I could not have stood with my hands tied. I applied the decision to expand the circle of suspicion and placed the decision to release suspects after questioning in my hand, not with subordinates. The villagers came to me after they were besieged by questions from the people, and they began to supply information about suspects. This helped me a great deal, and I used the information to score many successes. [passage omitted]

[AL-AHALI] When will these strict security measures end? Some people fear they will continue until the elections.

['Umar] We still have three months from today; I think terrorism will recede completely. Terrorists must change their plans or leave; we are giving them no chance to think. The elections will be held in a very clam atmosphere, without extraordinary security measures.

NADP Condemns Israeli Participation in Fair

NC3003090595 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 27 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Nasirite Arab Democratic Party [NADP] has issued a press statement vehemently criticizing the campaigns of oppression and arrests of party leaders and members who stand accused of inciting the people to resist the normalization process and encouraging them to organize protests against the crime committed by the government, the crime of allowing Israel to participate in the Cairo International Fair. The NADP statement affirmed that the authorities have, through their oppressive measures, violated all their claims about preserving the democratic march and revealed their dictatorial nature. The party warned of the dangers of allowing the security forces to continue their policy of violating freedom. The party said the government proved, through its oppressive measures, that it is the honest guardian of Zionist interests, which, by their very nature, contradict the interests of our people. The party demanded the immediate release of all the detainees and prisoners and the punishment of those whose murderous hands terrorized, hit, and tortured the honorable people who rose to defend the interests of their country and their dignity. [passage omitted]

Tourism Minister Meets With Israeli Counterpart

TA3003091695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egypt is speeding up procedures at the Taba border crossing for Israelis to reduce waiting time. The Egyptian Tourism Minister, Ahmad Mamduh al-Biltaji, informed Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am of the new measures when they met in Cairo yesterday. The two ministers also agreed on the joint marketing of tourist packages in the U.S., Europe, and the Far East. The Egyptian official was also confident that cooperation in tourism would improve relations between the two countries. He noted that last year 240,000 visited Egypt.

Musa Meets With South African Foreign Minister

NC2903152795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today held a round of talks with South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo who is visiting Cairo. They discussed African issues and ways of boosting bilateral ties.

They also signed an agreement to form a joint committee to develop the two countries' relations in various spheres. The committee will be chaired by the two countries' foreign ministers and hold an annual meeting alternately in the two capitals. [passage omitted]

Al-AHRAM Sees Interest in Cooperation With Russia

NC3003075295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Egypt acquires special importance in terms of its timing—it precedes President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States—and the content of the talks between the Russian and Egyptian foreign ministers.

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In a commentary today the paper notes Russia's important role; it is a cosponsor of the Middle East peace process, and peace and security in the region directly affect Russia's political and economic interests.

The paper expresses a belief that Russia is still a big power with huge political and military capabilities. It describes the country's economic crisis, caused by the collapse of Communism, as a passing crisis that must find its way toward a solution.

The paper stresses that Egypt and Russia have a joint interest in strengthening their cooperation. It says there is broad scope for this cooperation, since Egypt needs Russian expertise and technology, while Russia needs many of Egypt's industrial and agricultural products.

Government-Press Confrontation Detailed

Crisis of the Egyptian Press

95LD0037A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22 Jan 95 pp 22-26

[Article by Ayman al-Sayyad in Cairo: "Crisis of the Egyptian Press: Sit-ins, Legal Amendments, and Licenses to Sell"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shortly after the issuing of decisions aimed at "putting an end to the practice of some parties' selling their newspapers," the Egyptian parliament embarked upon some controversial changes to the Egyptian press law. This coincides with the decision of the public prosecutor to detain well-known journalist 'Adil Husayn. The decisions, the changes, and the "coincidence" have pushed the subject of the press and the government in Egypt into the spotlight just a few weeks before the interim elections of the Press Syndicate, which is practically the only professional trade union not under the control of the Islamists—yet. In this report, AL-MAJALLAH looks into the crisis and meets with numerous players in it.

About four weeks ago, the attorney general of Egypt, Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi issued a warrant to detain journalist 'Adil Husayn, 65, secretary general of the opposition Labor Party and former editor-in-chief of the newspaper AL-SHA'B [The People] for 15 days, for the purpose of questioning and charging him with the possession of leaflets published by banned religious groups (the arrest warrant was subsequently renewed for another 15 days, renewable).

An official statement of the Interior Ministry—composed in a harsh tone that drew angry reactions from Egyptian intellectuals and politicians—referred to the arrest of "said person" on 24 October 1994 upon his arrival at Cairo Airport on an Air France plane. As the employees of the French airline were cleaning the aircraft after the passengers had deplaned, they discovered an envelope that was left "accidentally" on his seat in the plane. The envelope contained some publications. They turned them over to security at Cairo Airport—according to the Interior report. The relevant authorities then issued a prepared document with this announcement, after having obtained the precise details, and without the accused, to the prosecutor's office, which then began its investigations. The date for the accused, 'Adil Husayn, to be summoned for questioning was set for 24 December 1994. The prosecutor decided to detain him for 15 days to complete the investigation.

This statement from the Interior Ministry, whose intention was to reassure public opinion, stirred up even more reactions. Defenders of 'Adil Husayn's position were described as "hirelings who write on behalf of whoever funds them," and the statement went to accuse them of "having always defended falsehood and disgracefully resisted the truth and facts and legal and judicial measures." It warned that "the security services are capable of confronting and striking at intellectual terrorism" and countering these practicies "with decisive legal measures." Numerous public figures have issued a statement of solidarity with 'Adil Husayn, in which they appeal to the president to intervene and free him immediately. What is striking is that the long list of signatories to the statement included names representing all political and intellectual affiliations in Egypt, in addition to the names of a number of former ambassadors, diplomats, Cabinet ministers, and military men, in addition to writers, scholars, university professors, and members of parliament. Besides names such as Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali and Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi, one finds Dr. Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd, Husayn 'Abd-al-Razzaq, Ibrahim al-Badrawi, the representative of communists in Egypt, Dr. Milad Hanna, Dr. Yunan Labib Rizq, Dr. Ibrahim Sa'd-al-Din, Ambassador Tahsin Bashir, Salah Mursi, Sun'allah Ibrahim, Lieutenant General Amin Huwaydi, Lieutenant General Sa'd-al-Din Shadhli, and still others on the long list, which is growing every day.

Many observers point out that the decision to detain the journalist came hours after he published an article in which he protested what he called "America's military base in the Sinai," referring to the base where international peacekeeping forces are headquartered, and whose expenses were the subject of recent Egyptian-American-Israeli diplomatic consultations. At the same time, others point out repeated accusations against the journalist for his relations with those considered to be "extremist figures in the region." (One notes that statements of support for 'Adil Husayn came from HAMAS, the Algerian FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], Rachid al-Ghannouchi, and others).

In no Egyptian newspaper—"national" or "opposition"—is there a single voice favoring the measures to which the secretary general of the Labor Party was subjected—and there have been numerous articles by writers of all stripes condemning what has happened to the well-known journalist. The issue has been linked to other aspects of the press crisis in Egypt. Mustafa Amin wrote in AL-AKHBAR: " 'Adil Husayn's whole crime was that they found leaflets on the seat where he had

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been sitting on the plane. This accusation is the subject of an investigation. The investigation is not over yet, it has not gone to trial, and so there has been no verdict. Every journalist receives leaflets in the mail attacking the government and criticizing conditions, and not one journalist feels as though he has committed a crime when he keeps these leaflets. If this principle were applied to all the journalists in Egypt, they would all be in prison."

After Mahmud al-Maraghi, editor-in-chief of AL-'ARABI newspaper admitted that his views are in conflict with a number of Labor Party initiatives and its secretary general, he ventured to say that "the government is belittling public opinion, saying that, while 'Adil Husayn was on his way to his house after leaving the airport, the employees found an envelope containing leaflets on his seat."

The prosecutor's questioning of 'Adil Husayn have in any case shown that he denied any connection with the envelope. Newspapers say that the graphologist officially appointed to examine the remarks found written on the envelope of leaflets established that the handwriting was not that of the former editor-in-chief of AL-SHA'B. This led many to expect a decision to release him when his detention came up for review after the first 15 days. But that did not happen. The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights described the charge against 'Adil Husayn as "a fabricated charge aimed at preparing the climate for the taking of measures against the Labor Party and its newspaper."

A statement issued by the organization voiced its anxiety over the fact that the investigations were based on Article 86b of the Penal Code. It pointed out that many of those who deal with opinion had recently been interrogated on the basis of those amendments.

In his comments in reponse to the questions of some writers during his meeting with them at the opening of the Book Fair, President Mubarak said, "Journalist 'Adil Husayn is a citizen just like any other citizen. I did not know the details of this case until I read about it in the AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper. We do not interfere in judiciary affairs, and my principle is not to interfere in its processes. I was eager to learn the facts of the situation, and the response was clear: that he was not imprisoned. He was detained with the knowledge of the public prosecutor."

Key Journalists View Crisis

95LD0037B London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22 Jan 95 pp 24-26

[Interview with AL-AHRAR Editor Mustafa Bakri, former press official Kamil Zuhayri, and syndicate member Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, by Hanan Hajjaj; place and date not given—first two paragraphs are AL-MAJALLAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amid the mounting furor of the crisis over the press and journalists in Egypt, AL-MAJALLAH met with former Press Federation Leader Kamil Kamil Zuhayri, Mustafa Bakri, editor-in-chief of the opposition AL-AHRAR, and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, board member of the Journalist Syndicate and the secretary of its Committee on Freedoms.

Mustafa Bakri is editor-in-chief of the opposition newspaper AL-AHRAR, chairman of the Liberal Party, and one of the journalists whose arrest stirred up a crisis and widespread controversy. He began his remarks to AL-MAJALLAH with the thought that what has been happening in Egypt for nearly a year reflects a new direction on the part of the Egyptian Government, in disciplining and punishing journalists. It has concocted delusional lawsuits to make possible its preventive detention of journalists, making fraudulent use of the law that forbids it. He cited as an example what happened to him, and to 'Adil Husayn, adding that there were two sides to the problem of the press in Egypt: a regime escalating its hostility to journalists and a press syndicate lax when it comes to fighting back.

[Hajjaj] Some opposition newspapers are charged with having gone beyond the boundaries of objective criticism and are actually harming Egypt's relations with other countries. This was the charge against you personally a few weeks ago. What do you think?

[Bakri] There is this question of boundaries, of where to stop or when to cross them, and it is known to every newspaper. Everyone understands there is what you may call the national interest or the interests of the Arab nation. But that does not mean that it has to go so far that journalists' views may not be expressed on vital and important issues, and set out for discussion in Arab and foreign newspapers. This in my estimation reflects a crisis in the regime's dealing with the press.

[Hajjaj] A recommendation was handed down by the Supreme Press Council, giving the Council priority in intervening to change the course of party newspapers should they diverge from the political line of the parties publishing them, with the possibility of halting their publication. It is said that your activities motivated that recommendation.

[Bakri] In a discussion I had with the secretary general of the Council, he asked me this question, and I asked him, who could assess a newspaper's straying from its party line—the Council or the party? He answered me: The party is responsible for that. And Mustafa Kamil Murad, the party leader, made it known that AL-AHRAR embodied the party line and stuck to it.

[Hajjaj] You are a Nasirist in your thinking, and you edit the newspaper AL-AHRAR published by the Liberal Party, while AL-NUR is also a party organ, whose Islamic editing is done by al-Hamzah Da'bis. Meanwhile, AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYYAH was the mouthpiece of the Muslim Brotherhood for a time. What is going on?

[Bakri] First of all, let me assure you that what AL-AHRAR prints is the true expression of the party line,

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whose program I studied before agreeing to work on its newspaper. Its most important principle is that the 23 July Revolution is the basis for the party's whole point of departure. What I may also say as the party's chairman is that the party needs a disciplinary process in some areas, in order that the political line made known through its publications be orderly and harmonious with its basic program, in the sense that the party needs to reformulate the consistency between its intellectual vision and the publications produced by it.

[Hajjaj] Is this lack of consistency, in your view, the reason for your party's being accused of selling the licenses for its publications to whoever will buy?

[Bakri] These accusations are being made, and they are being repeated, but no one has found any evidence whatsoever to support them. The only thing is that the Liberal Party considers itself to be a liberal party and allows all directions within it to have publications to express themselves, apart from whether we agree or disagree with them. This is what leads some people to accuse us of hiring out our papers to them. I would like to stress the fact that all the editors of the papers published by our party are members of it.

Kamil Zuhayri is former president of the Federation of Arab Journalists and the former chairman of Egyptian journalists. AL-MAJALLAH asked him about the new law, whose constitutionality is doubted by some. He replied: "In principle, I was one of the first to oppose the idea of retiring journalists at age 60 and cited the example of Jalal al-Hamamsi, Fikri Abazah, Zaki Najib Mahmud, and many others past 60, all fully mentally competent. Journalistic work is not like government work, subject to the pension law, but what happened at the time was that the law was enacted with the aim of eliminating some leading journalists. So in the General Conference of Journalists held in March 1991, we agreed on two principles: the inadmissibility of retiring journalists at age 60 and their not taking leading positions when they are past 60. As to what has happened recently, it was a surprise to me personally. The law was enacted without any recourse to the Supreme Council of Journalists, nor to the Syndicate, despite the fact that the Conference of Journalists demand that the Syndicate review the law, in order to avoid problems after the issuing of the law. The President agreed to that last year, after an attempt to pass the plan, which stipulated that the law must pass through the Syndicate, on the principle that "the people of Mecca know its trails best." There are also journalistic traditions we have been committed to since the end of the 1960s, when the Syndicate, not the government, introduced the 1970 plan. It was an important and very significant precedent. That law is still in force and accepted by all journalists, because we are the ones who produced it to suit our circumstances and our problems. But what has happened now is an obvious ploy. Otherwise, why was it limited to amending this article only, when the Conference of Journalists demanded, in the presence of the prime minister, the speaker of the People's Assembly, and the minister of information, that many issues relating to the Press Code, the Syndicate, and the economics of newspapers, be conducted? Why did the government rush into this article in particular and disdain the fundamentals that require it be presented to the Supreme Council and the Syndicate? I will never believe that the law was not enacted for certain persons, as the speaker of the Peoples' Assembly announced. How could the Penal Code be left as it is with its strange provisions?

[Hajjaj] When you were the chairman of the Journalists Syndicate, the general assembly made a resolution making it inadmissable to nominate board chairmen of the presidence of the Syndicate, though this did not ever happen. What happened to the Assembly's resolution?

[Zuhayri] That was in 1989, when I nominated myself to the position of chairman, and I was opposed by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi, and this principle was established, so that the interests of the chairman would not conflict, if he were to be appointed by the state as chairman of the board, with the interests of the Syndicate. This was my problem in the past when I was chairman of the Syndicate and chairman of the board of RUZ AL-YUSUF. The Syndicate needs elbow room and time from the Syndicate chairman, but unfortunately what happened after that was that the chairman began to choose from chairman of the board. This meant that it secured the loyalty of those under his chairmanship. I might also mention that the law of syndicates studied our request not to increase the chairman's term from two years, when the board membership was four years; our justification was that the post of chairman was a political post, and thus four years was enough so that we would not suddenly find ourselves with a chairman for life.

[Hajjaj] Don't you think that it is perhaps a reflection of circumstances that some think that what the Syndicate of Journalists is now going through is making it less effective than expected?

[Zuhayri] When we established the syndicate laws, our primary goal was to establish the principle that journalists are not government employees; they must be tried by the Syndicate and called to account professionally only by it. This of course is in addition to the importance of securing Syndicate funding without government support. It should have other sources of support, such as newspaper kiosks. That in itself is a support for the independence of the Syndicate, and a guarantee that it does not in the future become subservient to the regime. Our final objective was that the journalists' interests not get mixed up with the government and its interests. Despite the Syndicate's steadfastness in the face of many problems, its weight is still in doubt on the part of decisionmakers, and that is the result of the current situation.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus is one of the five members of the board of the Journalists Syndicate whose recent resignations caused more controversy over the changes to the press law. AL-MAJALLAH interviewed him and

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asked him about his resignation. He said: "No one is happy with the Syndicate's situation now. My resignation was inevitable, especially after the enactment of the recent extension law. This law was passed for certain people, and formulated to suit their circumstances perfectly, ignoring the masses of journalists and their wishes, which they have voiced for many years. Our view was not taken into consideration, either before or after it was passed. Even when Dr.'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din said he had sent it to us to study, we proved him to be lying, and it became clear to all that he had never done so. The law was passed for the chairmen of the boards; they applied it to the writers and did not deal equally between them and the journalists whose situation remained as it was. Plus, the case of 'Adil Husayn is something we cannot overlook. The whole case, by any logical standard, is totally fabricated, the charge is unproved in legal terms, and it makes no sense. The reason behind it requires no thought, but even so it is an alarm bell for us all.

[Hajjaj] Some people think the Syndicate did not fulfill its role as it should have in these cases, especially with the ongoing arrest of journalists in the past, and their being handed over to the courts—even to military courts.

['Abd-al-Quddus] Regrettably, 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn was sentenced and Mustafa Bakri was arrested, and recently 'Adil Husayn, too, but we as a syndicate had our strong position and expressed it in every way possible—we even protested and went on strike and paid no attention to the efforts of some to calm things down. Had the reaction been even more massive, perhaps those practices would have been banned.

[Hajjaj] What is the position now, inside the Syndicate, especially as the law stipulates the holding of board elections, with the departure of five members? Do you think those elections will be held?

['Abd-al-Quddus] I think the situation will stay the same. Nothing will change, even though this will create another ambiguity, as evidenced in their inability to open the door to nominations for the March elections while their are vacant seats on the present board.

[Hajjaj] Do you think the Syndicate, and its law, needs to be developed to extricate itself from its current predicament?

['Abd-al-Quddus] I think what we really need is to give a free hand to journalists, especially the freedom to publish newspapers. Only then will the current situation—which allows the government and its governmental writer and journalistic representatives arbitrary powers—change. The existence of a number of journalists working in those papers, and their affiliation as members in the Syndicate, will widen the circle of independent forces and achieve a balance. It would be a victory for independent journalists, and it will not leave the field open only to the government and its journalists. Otherwise, how can you explain that the chairman of the Syndicate of Journalists has enacted a law against the will of the masses of journalists? The law on publishing and licensing newspapers will be the first to change and evolve.

Lesson in Journalist's Arrest

95LD0037C London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22 Jan 95 p 22

[Interview with Tharwat Abazah, president of Writers Syndicate, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—first paragraph is AL-MAJALLAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite his refusal to comment on the measures taken against journalist 'Adil Husayn, Writers Syndicate President Tharwat Abazah asserts that what happened with 'Adil Husayn is a lesson to all those who have committed offenses requiring questioning, and that, in the end, journalists are citizens, and not above legal questioning.

AL-MAJALLAH asked him:

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do consider what 'Adil Husayn writes to be an offense deserving questioning?

[Abazah] Yes. What 'Adil Husayn writes is not the product of an awakened conscience or a heart devoted to what he is writing. It is a question of a criminal act being committed that is punishable by law. Should I allow a person to accuse a woman of being a harlot and just leave him alone, without questioning? 'Adil Husayn is indefensible, and to defend him is illogical.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But some people believe that the questioning of a writer should not be like the questioning of just any person; there must be different standards.

[Abazah] What does it mean for a writer to have special standards? There is only one law, and it is applicable to all. As long as that law is on the books, there are no exceptions. If the law were to change, at that time the modalities of questioning should change. Permit me to ask, does that mean that if a writer or journalist steals or kills, he shouldn't be questioned?

[AL-MAJALLAH] But the Journalists Syndicate is experiencing mounting protests against those measures.

[Abazah] That syndicate has fallen under the control of intellectual factions with their own directions and goals, specifically communists and the Muslim Brotherhood. This situation must change through a change in their election law to achieve the condition of the attendance of 50 percent of members, so that the Syndicate represents all journalists and can get out from under the control of these people.

In Egypt there is freedom of the press, a freedom neither Egypt nor the Arab world has known in their entire history, and this needs no proof. It must be protected.

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Prime Minister on Press Freedom

95LD0037D London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22 Jan 95 p 23

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, who stands out among all his predecessors as the target of press campaigns and criticisms—stinging in most cases—has said more than once that he was the first to turn to Mustafa Husayn's weekly editorial cartoon lampooning him in the daily AKHBAR AL-YAWN, and that he "enjoyed it." The Prime Minister announced, at the Journalists Syndicate, that "despite a great amount of provocation to halt or mitigate the freedom of the party press, we will not do so, as there are no curbs on the freedom of the press, no matter what excesses occur."

The freedom of the press referred to by the prime minister, who recently abandoned a lawsuit he was filing against AL-SHA'B, is clear to all observers: the opposition papers—even the national papers, in recent days—have published violent criticisms of the Minister of Petroleum.

Press Code Reviewed

95LD0037E London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22 Jan 95 pp 24-25

[FBIS Translated Text] A surprise decision by the People's Assembly to amend the Press Code has only thrown more oil on the fire of 'Adil Husayn's blazing case. In contrast to the repeated recommendations to the Syndicate of Journalists, the law was amended to permit journalistic leaders to remain in their posts after retirement age. While supporters of the law see it as permitting the preservation of "unique capabilities," opponents believe it was enacted solely to preserve "certain people" as well as to strike a blow at the prerogatives of the Syndicate responsible for issues affecting its members.

The amendment, which the People's Assembly itself refused to debate last year, provides for striking out the third paragraph of Article 28 of the Code, which stipulates that the chairman of the board of the press organization, the editors-in-chief of national newspapers, and the members of their editorial boards may not remain in their posts past age 60. This is the retirement age for most journalists.

The measures taken to amend the Press Code have stirred up a "constitutional controversy" referred to in Egyptian newspapers themselves. While some, such as Dr. Subhi 'Abd-al-Hakim, the first Consultative Council president, say it was necessary to bring the amendments to the Supreme Press Council—in accordance with its law—before it was enacted. Others, such as People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Hilmi Surur, believe that consulting with the Supreme Press Council is permissible but not mandatory. Whatever the manner in which this "consitutional dispute" is resolved, the amendments approved by President Mubarak a few days ago have actually created several legal predicaments. On the one hand, there is a dispute over the extent of the new law's applicability to AL-AHRAM Editor-in-Chief Ibrahim Nafi'and AL-MUSAWWAR Editor-in-Chief Makram Muhammad Ahmad, who reached retirement age before the passage of the amendments. This renders their presence in their posts basically contrary to the law. Thus, in the view of former Minister of State Dr. Ahmad Salamah—the law does not apply to them.

On the other hand, another legal predicament is growing, which resulted from the resignation of five board members from the Syndicate of Journalists. They did this in protest against the fact that the law was passed without taking the Syndicate's view into consideration. The law stipulates that they hold elections for vacant seats within 15 days if the membership drops three or more members. Because scheduled elections will be held early this March, it is not practically expected that any election candidates will seek the five seats; this will create an unusual situation, as it will not be possible to open the door for nominations in the March elections before the end of the tenure of the current board. Its end will not formally come until after its membership is completed by the election of new members in place of the five who resigned.

A Collection of Laws

The problem the journalists and their syndicate have with the laws, the amendments to the laws, and their "mode of application" is longstanding and complex; it is nearly a full-time crisis.

Despite the fact that journalistic practices in Egyptian journalism enjoy a high degree of freedom, in which Egyptian journalists themselves take pride, at the same time they complain that it is "freedom in practice, not in the law," whose sword—as they say—remains hanging over their heads and is used at will.

The wide margin of freedom—renowned throughout the region—is evidenced by the opposition newspapers. There is also the fact that a press campaign in AL-SHA'B brought down the intransigent Interior Minister Zaki Badr; yet another campaign, in AL-WAFD, lasted for nine months and was behind the recent official resistance to the spoiled food issue. And yet another unprecedented campaign, in which national nespapers also took part, aimed at Minister of Awqaf Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, and was led by AL-AHRAR, after it succeeded in publishing documents accusing the minister responsible for Muslims' endowments of corruption. On another front, journalists say that since the Penal Code was enacted in 1883, it has a single heading for "the crimes of newspapers and journalists." Despite this, and despite the existence of 29 articles in the current law for prosecuting journalists, and specifying their punishments, it has never prevented the enactment of other, additional laws at various times to make those punishments harsher. (One example is Law 37 of 1922, which raised the maximum punishment for "the incitement of aversion to or scorn of the government" from two to five years in prison.)

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In spite of the fact that this arsenal of laws has not generally found its way into practical implementation, the problem lies—as the assistant editor-in-chief of AL-AHRAM, Salah-al-Din Hafiz, says—in the fact that the laws are implemented, or it is hinted that they will be implemented, "sometimes."

Some observers believe that the "sometimes" average has increased somewhat in recent years. Former minister, vice president of the Labor Party, and journalist Dr. Hilmi Murad, 79, was arrested and interrogated in September 1993 because of articles he had written in AL-SHA'B. Majdi Husayn, editor-in-chief of the same newspaper, has been arrested for the same reason more than once. Mahmud Maraghi, editor-in-chief of AL-'ARABI, was interrogated by the military prosecutor because of news he had published in his newspaper. 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn was actually tried by a military court—a new precedent—for printing news "without the permission of the relevant authorities."

Egyptian dissidents warn that the situation now closely resembles the days of harassment of the opposition press under al-Sadat. At that time additional laws were passed to curb freedom of opinion under such lustrous names as "the Law for the Protection of the Home Front and the Safeguarding of Social Peace" to punish whoever criticized Camp David, and the "Law for the Protection of Values from Shame" to punish whoever attacked government policies. The opposition in Egypt sees the amendments recently introduced into the Egyptian Penal Code as strongly punishing, using ambiguous language, "anyone who publishes or promotes the ideas of extremists." However, it mentions them in the famous al-Sadat fashion, with "legal punishment" for whoever violates it; in his final days, it was constantly referred to as "the tooth and claw law"!

The board of the Syndicate of Journalists held an emergency session months ago, which was followed by the issuance of a statement in which it said that "we discussed the arrests of journalists, and their summonses to the State Security Prosecutor and the Military Prosecutor for interrogation in cases of publication and opinion. This is not in conformity with the procedures of criminal law or the Syndicate of Journalists law, which is intended to protect the security of journalists. These measures have reached the point of tyranny in the exercise of authority and the application of the law, such as the disregard of the notification of the Syndicate so it can be present at the questioning of journalists accused of violating publishing laws; this is a basic condition and important guarantee provided by the law."

Press Violating Licenses

95LD0037F London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22 Jan 95 p 26

[FBIS Translated Text] Some blame "the irresponsible practices of party newspapers" for what is wrong with the journalistic climate in Egypt, whether indulging in sensationalism at the expense of objectivity, or the lack of deliberation and evidence before making accusations or criticism of public figures.

They also allude to newspapers damaging Egypt's diplomatic relations with "friendly countries." This is rendered criminal by the law in any case. People of this opinion point to what they consider an "unfortunate" phenomenon: the fact that some parties (the Ummah and the Liberals) are exploiting the right the law gives them to publish a number of newspapers and other publications. They go so far as to issue licenses to newspapers supposedly speaking in their name, then sell or "rent" those licenses to others.

One example is AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYYAH, whose license was granted to the Liberal Party, but which became the mouthpiece of the banned Muslim Brotherhood [MB] before the government closed it about one year ago. Liberal Party chief Mustafa Kamil Murad responded to the charge that his party had hired out one of its newspapers to the MB, saying, "it is merely a question of an alliance that existed between us and the MB at a certain time."

Confronting another charge against the newspapers published by his party in conflict with their policies, depsite the fact that they are published by the same party, Murad says, "That's journalism: fish, milk, and tamarinds. It can't be one solid chunk, like a socialist regime!"

As a solution to this question, at any rate, the Supreme Press Council issued several resolutions some months ago, which some see as "checks" and others see as "restrictions" on the publication of party newspapers, even on the practices of their employees.

Those resolutions recommend, among other things, the closure of a newspaper if it deviates from the principles of its party. The authorities are also studying the introduction of amendments to the law governing political parties. These would be aimed at achieving two basic objectives: imposing a comprehensive ban on parties or their newspapers who receive any funding from abroad and strengthening the penalties for doing so. What is clearly linked to this is the stipulation that the Central Accounting Agency has the right to appoint two financial overseers, for the newspapers of the opposition parties, in order to review their funding and spending processes.

Libya

Sanctions Extension Linked to U.S. 'Terrorism'

LD3003210095 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The so-called UN Security Council, which is controlled by a United Nations composed of the governments of the United States, Britain, and France, has confirmed its serious deviation from the laws, principles, and legislations accepted by the peoples that are members of the UN General Assembly.

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The Council decided today to maintain the unjust measures that have been forcefully imposed by the U.S., English, and French Governments on the Libyan people, in a blatant defiance of the international community represented by international, regional, and popular organizations, bodies and groups across the five continents, which have announced via all channels their support for the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting arrogance and terrorism.

The JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY's international affairs editor has said that evidence confirmed that it was no longer surprising for any unreasonable decision to be issued by that U.S. Council.

He said that the United States was no longer hiding the ferocity of its desire to control the world by military force, and toward that end it was prepared, by its hostile nature, to perpetrate more stupidities, which necessarily lacked logic and legal basis.

He added that the Libyan people, who had offered all they could to serve peace, security, and stability in the region and in the world, were now victims of U.S. terrorism. He said that that kind of unjustifiable decisions do not add anything other than strengthening the conviction that the United Nations and its councils have lost their credibility for the all the peoples of the world who no longer have faith in the future, seeing how these organizations have deviated from their goals and breached their charters and principles.

OAU Lockerbie Committee Meets in Tobruk

LD3003140695 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The African ministerial committee in charge of contacts with the parties to the dispute over the so-called Lockerbie issue, set up by the OAU, held its first meeting in Tobruk town this morning.

The committee consists of representatives of five African regions. They are the foreign ministers of Ghana, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Tunisia and the assistant secretary general of the OAU.

The Ghanaian foreign minister opened the session in his capacity as the chairman of this meeting. He pointed out that the committee in charge of contacts with parties to the dispute over the so-called Lockerbie issue, which was set up by a resolution issued by OAU's ministerial council convened in Addis Ababa in January 1995, was interested in establishing contacts with the parties to this dispute, coordinating efforts and initiatives, particularly with the seven-member committee set up by the Arab League, and opening channels for dialogue to seek a just and peaceful solution to this issue.

Foreign Liaison Secretary Speaks

LD3003190895 Tripoli JANA in English 1809 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tobruk, al Rabia [March] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The African ministerial committee for liaison with the parties of conflict of the so-called Lockerbie case which emanates from the Organization of African Unity has held its first meeting in Tobruk today. The committee members include the principals of the O.A.U five African regions, namely the foreign ministers of Ghana, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Tunisia and the secretary general of the O.A.U.

The secretary of the general people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation spoke welcoming the delegations and indicated that the meeting comes in implementation of the resolution taken by the O.A.U. foreign ministers council in its last session to exert good will efforts in their capacity as principals of the African regions for the liaison with the parties of conflict in the so-called Lockerbie case.

He said that the establishment of the committee reflects the interest and the concern of the O.A.U state members with the developments of the conflict and the [word indistinct] negative impacts which resulted in imposing the unfair sanctions. He said that the concern of the O.A.U was practically reflected in the statement issued by the secretary general of the O.A.U., last month of al Kanoun [April], reaffirming solidarity of the O.A.U with the Great Jamahiriyah.

The secretary general of the O.A.U made a speech in which he highlighted the solidarity and support of the O.A.U. for the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and the efforts towards reaching a fair and just settlement for the crisis and the lifting of the unfair sanctions imposed by the western states on the Great Jamahiriyah through the so-called Security Council. The committee will resume its meeting this evening.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Committee

LD3003213295 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] has received members of the committee for contacting the parties in the dispute of the so-called Lockerbie case who are holding their first meeting in the Great Jamahiriyah.

The brother leader of the revolution praised the OAU's initiative to set up the committee, which has given value and self-esteem to Africa.

He stressed the need to reconsider the membership of small states of the United Nations that had become subjugated by the Western states, which had formed an alliance against Germany during the Second World War.

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The brother leader said that the Great Jamahiriyah had made stances and taken measures regarding the two suspected Libyan citizens to ensure a fair trial for them. However, as a state it could not turn over its subjects to another state without their consent because that breached human rights and laws.

He said that the United States was trying to threaten small states such as Iraq and Libya and that may be extended to other states in order for it to achieve its imperialist goals.

Committee Ends Meeting

LD3003213995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The liaison committee, which was set up by the OAU foreign ministers to contact the parties in the so-called Lockerbie case dispute, ended its meeting in Tobruk this evening.

The committee adopted some measures that aim at facilitating negotiations between the parties with a view to reaching a peaceful and just solution to the crisis. [passage omitted]

Tripoli To Mediate Uganda-Sudan Dispute

LD3003221395 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sudanese officials in Uganda have stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah will make reconciliation efforts between Uganda and Sudan in the talks being held between the countries concerning the rebels in southern Sudan. [passage omitted]

The German news agency has reported that an official Ugandan delegation has left Kampala for the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

John Garang Explains Agreement to Cease-Fire

AB3003163495 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 30 Mar 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former American President Jimmy Carter might just be achieving what international meetings in Abuja, Nigeria, and efforts by the African countries of the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] region have failed to do: establish a bilateral cease-fire in southern Sudan. Mr. Carter wants to set up campaigns to eradicate guinea-worms and river blindness in the region where government forces and SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels have been slugging it out for years. Earlier this week, Sudan's military leader, General al-Bashir, announced that he was declaring a cease-fire after talks with Jimmy Carter. Now John Garang of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-SPLA has announced a cease-fire from midnight tonight, also after talking to Mr. Carter. On the line to Nairobi, Elizabeth Ohene asked John Garang what Jimmy Carter said to persuade him to accept the cease-fire.

[Begin recording] [Garang] He came to me. He met me in Nairobi, and he suggested that if a cease-fire can be called so that these two campaigns are made, what would be our response, and I said we are a people fighting for human dignity. We are on the defense. It is Khartoum that is on the offensive. Go to Khartoum and ask them. If they accept a cease-fire, we will accept a cease-fire. So it is on humanitarian grounds. It is concern for our civil population and anything that would benefit our people, we are for it.

[Ohene] But why not before? Surely, it didn't him to make you aware that your people are suffering.

[Garang] No, it didn't. At Abuja I, Abuja II, and all along through the IGADD talks, the SPLM-SPLA has always called for a cease-fire. You can check that on the records. In the last IGADD also we asked for a cease-fire. It is Khartoum that has always rejected the cease-fire in their false belief that they were winning the war.

[Ohene] Now, do you think two months is all that would be required to make these projects work?

[Garang] Hardly. No, I don't think so. You cannot eradicate guinea-worm in two months, or prevent river blindness in two months, but this is a cease-fire that Khartoum has accepted. As I said before, we have been asking for a cease-fire since Abuja I. Now, Khartoum says two months, so two months it is.

[Ohene] And I take it that after two months the fighting resumes.

[Garang] Khartoum will start fighting even before the two months, because they have refused international monitors. We have asked for international monitoring if Khartoum was serious, and they have rejected this. So why reject international monitors if you have no other agenda, if you do not have an offensive agenda?

[Ohene] So it sounds as if even these two months, there is no guarantee that fighting wouldn't erupt tomorrow.

[Garang] Absolutely, there is no guarantee, because there were no discussions in order to arrive at concrete mechanisms for the cease-fire itself—that is the cease-fire arrangement. It is just a unilateral declaration by Khartoum that: We declare a cease-fire for two months, and the SPLA did the same. All the same it is positive that a cease-fire has been called, and it will help the delivery of relief (?during) the guinea-worm and river blindness campaign. Whatever little good that can be done within these two months will benefit our people. [end recording]

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President Creates New Government Ministry

EA3003195795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Summary] President 'Umar al-Bashir has issued a Republican decree establishing a new ministry in the federal states, to be called the Ministry of Social and Cultural Affairs.

Parliamentary Human Rights Rapporteur Resigns

AB3003131495 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, March 29 (AFP)—The rapporteur of Sudan's parliamentary human rights committee has resigned, newspaper reports said Wednesday [29 March].

Reports in the dailies Akhbar al Youm and Al-rai al Akhar said Ahmed Zein Al Abdeen Omer had tendered his resignation Tuesday, saying that his presence in parliament "no longer serves my cause nor the cause of those I represent."

There were no other details.

Western Sahara

Polisario Representative Warns of War

BR3003141395 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1232 GMT 29 Mar 95

[Unattributed report: "Sayed: If Saharan Peace Plan Fails, It Will Be Necessary To Return to War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 29 Mar (EFE)—Bachir Mustafa Sayed, the man responsible for the peace plan for the Sahara of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR), said today that if the plan fails and if Morocco continues to refuse to talk, "the remedy will be to return to war, since we cannot accept being suffocated."

Sayed stated that the referendum for the self-determination of the Sahara could be "the joke of the nineties," as was the Arias Navarro government's solemn declaration that it would defend the Saharan people's integrity until they determined their future in the seventies.

The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] number two made these statements at a news conference on the occasion of a visit to the islands by a SDAR delegation comprising the governors of the four "wilayas"—provinces—and the 25 Saharan mayors, invited by the Canary Islands Federation of City Councils and Municipalities Twinned with the Saharan People.

"The key aspects of the UN peace plan for the Sahara still do not have satisfactory solutions," asserted Sayed, who condemned "the total obscurity" in which the identification process to draw up a register of the people who will take part in the referendum is proceeding.

Although the sides and the OAU are there, the Sahara's territory remains "hermetically closed" to the press and independent international observers, he added.

Sayed stated that the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (Minurso) greatly resembles "a secret, clandestine, espionage organization," since everything is proceeding without openness.

He stated that the Moroccans are overseeing the identification process and saturating the UN Identification Committee teams with "floods of lists of forms."

He also said that nothing is known about the period following the referendum; that if the majority vote for independence, there is no machinery for the transfer of the power of the administration of the territory; and that "the colonial power is repeating over and over again that the Moroccans will not leave the Sahara."

The Polisario's man responsible for the plan for peace in the Sahara trusts that the UN Security members will do what is necessary to save this plan at the next two meetings. The first, at which a new report from UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali will be presented, will be in the first week in April, and the following meeting, at which he will present a more substantial report which will determine Minurso's fate, at the end of May.

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Bahrain

Policeman Killed, Two Wounded in Bomb Attack

NC3003213295 Paris AFP in English 2019 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, March 30 (AFP)—A policeman was killed and two others wounded Thursday [30 March] in a petrol-bomb attack on their car in Sitra, southeast of the Bahraini capital, the Interior Ministry said.

Their patrol car caught fire and one policeman burnt to death, it said.

Bahrain has been the scene of unrest since mid-December after the arrest of a Shiite Moslem cleric demanding the restoration of parliament.

At least nine people have died in clashes between demonstrators and police, according to the opposition in exile. The authorities have previously reported two policemen killed.

Kuwait

Ugandan President Museveni, Delegation Visits

Arrives on State Visit

LD2703120495 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the president of Uganda, and an accompanying delegation arrived at Kuwait International Airport at around 1300 for a three-day state visit to the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir

LD2803192095 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda visited his highness the amir at al-Bayan Palace at 1000 this morning. Official talks were held.

Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, minister of amir's court affairs, said that the talks dealt with bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, international developments, and issues of mutual concern.

An amiable atmosphere, distinguished by understanding and the spirit of friendship, prevailed at the talks.

Departs After Official Visit

LD2903123495 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda, and the delegation accompanying his excellency, left Kuwait International Airport at 1115 today after a three-day official visit to the country. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Discusses Gulf Issues, Peace, NPT

NC3003123495 Doha Qatari Government Press Release in Arabic 27 Mar 95

[Speech by Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani at the opening of the 23d session of Qatar's Advisory Council on 27 March; issued by the Qatari Government]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Brother Citizens, Members of the Advisory Council: In the name of God Almighty I open the ordinary 23d session of your esteemed Advisory Council. On the formation of the new council, I would like to begin by expressing thanks and appreciation to the members who ended their term for their sincere efforts and good performance, which have left their mark on the progress of the council's work. I also extend warm congratulations to the new members and wish them success.

Our meeting today comes at the outset of a new session coinciding with an important stage in our national action, reaping the fruits of major achievements and hard work during the past two decades in laying the foundations of a modern state. Building a modern state requires an infrastructure in line with the highest international standards, state structures, public utilities, institutions, and major economic and industrial projects in accordance with comprehensive planning that takes into consideration the requirements of our dear people, our basic needs, makes the best use of our manpower and natural resources, and includes diverse sources of revenue. Praise be to God, we have, with God's help, achieved the hoped-for goals of national action in the basic stage of building our young state.

As we reap the fruits of these great efforts, the current stage of our national action is aimed at strengthening our national economy and providing the means to achieve prosperity for our loyal people and our coming generations. We will establish the second industrial base that primarily relies on natural gas and its basic components and relevant and complementary factors. Doubtless we all know of the efforts the state is exerting in this regard. We also know of the allocation of enormous and necessary financial credits under unfavorable international economic conditions, represented basically in the low oil prices and the simultaneously reduced purchasing power of the U.S. dollar, by which oil prices are fixed. But our development plans and our oil and gas projects are proceeding according to plan and are being implemented on time. These projects were implemented in tandem with the development of the various economic sectors and the strengthening of the industrial and agricultural projects and the promotion of the educational and academic establishments.

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Esteemed Brothers, we have always wanted effective participation in the issues of our Gulf region and of our Arab and Islamic nations. We have always called for the unity and integration of our peoples so that they might achieve the status befitting them among the economic and political cartels dominating the world. We attach great importance to strengthening the march of the Gulf Cooperation Council's member states and achieving stability in the Gulf region. Proceeding from this stance, we welcomed Iraq's recognition of the State of Kuwait, its territorial integrity, security, and international border in accordance with Security Council Resolution 833. We hope this recognition will herald the return of security, peace, and stability to the region. We emphasize the need for Iraq to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions, including releasing every Kuwaiti POW and detainee, preserving Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, and ending the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Regarding our Arab issues, we welcome the efforts being made through the Arab League to clear the Arab atmosphere, achieve reconciliation, and restore Arab solidarity on realistic, candid, and objective bases. We hope these efforts will achieve the desired results so that the Arab nation may restore its solidarity and unify its stance to achieve the common Arab interests. Regarding the peace process in the Middle East, we have supported this process out of faith in the need to achieve a comprehensive and fair peace for all the region's peoples and fulfill their hopes for progress and development.

As we welcome anew the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty as another step on the right path, we emphasize the need to make the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks successful and to achieve a total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and south Lebanon. We also emphasize the need to restore the Palestinian people's inalienable and legitimate rights and to establish their independent state on their national soil with holy Jerusalem as its capital. The status of Jerusalem according to the 1967 borders must not be changed and no geographic or demographic changes can be made during the interim to affect the results of the negotiations over Jerusalem. We believe that any solution on other bases will not be considered to be comprehensive and permanent nor will it achieve security and stability in the Middle East.

We believe that to achieve the desired real peace, there is a need for Israel, not the Arab countries alone, to comply with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. It is illogical to permit a state to possess nuclear weapons and ban its neighbors from possessing such weapons.

Esteemed Brothers, as we follow with deep pain and regret the continuing brutal Serb acts of aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina and the obstruction of every international effort to reach a peaceful solution to this conflict, we believe there is a need for deterrent measures to stop this sinful aggression and prepare the atmosphere for a peaceful and fair peace that preserves the unity, independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina. We also feel pain at the continuing conflict in the Muslim Republic of Chechnya, which has caused massive losses in lives and property. We call for stopping these military operations and ending the bloodshed to find a negotiated solution to the conflict based on dialogue and peaceful means.

Esteemed Brothers, it pleases me to express my sincere appreciation of the distinguished role played by your esteemed council in helping the government perform its mission, giving it sincere counsel and sound views. I pray to God Almighty to help us achieve our dear people's aspirations. We hope we will succeed in our steps on the path of development and progress. God is the all-hearing [Koranic verse], and will respond to our prayers. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Saudi Arabia

Government Said To Demand U.S. 'Liquidation' of CDLR

MM3003200195 London CDLR MONITOR in Arabic 29 Mar 95 p 2

["Scenes From the Treason Meeting"—CDLR MONITOR headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Saudi Ambassador to the United States] Bandar's insistence on the liquidation of the [Saudi] Committee [for the Defense of Legitimate Rights—CDLR] was very strange indeed. For he repeated his demand for the Committee's liquidation more than 10 times. He insisted that the liquidation should be completed prior to recognition [of Israel by Saudi Arabia]. But the U.S. side insisted that recognition and normalization should come first and after that implementation of the matter [of liquidation] would begin. The U.S. side pledged that the CIA would embark immediately on distorting the reputation of the committee, dispersing its efforts, misleading it by wrong information, destroying confidence among its members and finally dissolving it through the creation of opposition groups with views that conflict with its views.

During the meeting, the smell of conflicts within the [Saudi Royal] Family began to seep out. It was not possible to find out whom Bandar represents. For Bandar has described Sa'ud al-Faysal as being a trivial person who only seeks to fulfil his personal ambitions. He also claimed that the King has tried hard to destroy Salman's card and get rid of him because he represents a threat to the future of his children. He spoke with a tone of suspicion and fear about another strong group within the family, presumably meaning 'Abdallah's group. During the discussion, he referred to 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin Fahd as being a decisionmaker at this stage. And although Bandar seemed generally to be the King's

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representative at the meeting, it transpired, however, that he had some aspirations of his own and some hopes to get to the throne, as he officially asked the U.S. side to withhold some of the information from the king. He talked constantly as though he was the one vested with the power to make decisions.

Though the U.S. side pledged to meet Bandar's demands, it tried more than once to convince Bandar of the need to make political concessions to block the way in the face of the Committee and other organizations.

Bandar spoke with a dirty tongue during the meeting, calling the Committee members stray dogs. He also spoke in an ugly manner about the 'Utaybah tribe because of Shaykh Kassab al-'Utaybi's departure [from obedience] and asked the Americans to discipline that tribe and other tribes by liquidating Shaykh Kassab. He also uttered some ugly words about some members of the ruling dynasty as well as against the presidents of some Arab countries such as the presidents of Yemen, Egypt, and Syria. He called Shaykhs Safar and Salman psychopaths.

Bandar expressed great concern over what some world newspapers have published about conditions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, strongly demanded intervention by the Americans and the Jews to prevent the publication of such matters, and insisted that the fulfilment of this demand should be part of the deal.

Part of the meeting was attended by two Israeli personalities and one Saudi personality who works in the field of intelligence, in addition to some agents. We will reveal the names of all of them in due course.

Out of respect for his being inside the Saudi Embassy, the American chose coffee to drink. But Bandar insisted that he should drink whisky and bragged that they have all kinds of drinks.

Bandar expressed his extreme dismay at the circulation of the Committee's economic report within the circles of finance, business, banks, universities, and scientific institutions in the United States.

The conferees heard a detailed report about the Committee's workers in London and those non-Saudis who cooperate and sympathize with them.

The U.S. side admitted that the Committee is capable of penetrating the regime and that a large amount of the regime's secrets leak to the Committee. He said that this fact was the reason for the reservations about cooperation in the past.

The U.S. side admitted that the FBI and the CIA are capable of influencing the judiciary in the United States and of manipulating the facts and incriminating the innocent. It said, however, that it is difficult to do the same thing in Britain.

Ghazi al-Qusaybi did not participate in the meeting and confined himself to overseeing the service of the guests, the distribution of drinks and refreshments, and the preparation of the dinner.

In the course of his complaints to the U.S. side, Bandar said that according to information he has received, there have been three doctoral theses in major U.S. universities dealing with the deterioration of economic conditions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Bandar accused the Americans of dereliction in allowing such theses to be made.

Bandar expressed his concern over attempts by other Saudi Family members to join in the race toward the Jews. He cited as an example an attempt by Khalid Bin Sultan to establish contacts with [the Jews] through some Lebanese intermediaries. Bandar asked the U.S. and Jewish sides to consider him as the only channel, because his past was better than all the rest, citing as an example his role in the Gulf crisis and the Madrid conference. Bandar said that the biggest mistake the Family has committed was acting contrary to the proverb: "Starve your dog and it will follow you." He said that the Family has overfed the people and so the people now try to devour it. It should have kept the people deprived, he said.

Bandar expressed his disappointment at the regime's failure to keep watch on the Committee's contacts. But the U.S. side told him that the cause of all that was your [the Saudis] failure to purchase the necessary equipment for doing so, which costs one billion dollars and which was purchased by countries less wealthy than Saudi Arabia such as Egypt.

Bandar expressed his great regret at the departure of Martin Indyk from Washington and said that this departure had left him like an orphan and that Washington was no longer bearable after Indyk. The U.S. party, however, convinced Bandar that he will replace Indyk in open cooperation with him.

The U.S. side promised Bandar to launch a worldwide information campaign against the Islamic groups following the recognition [of Israel], and to ensure that Israel would provide the Saudi Family with all the security information it possesses about "the opposition."

Yemen

Police Use Tear Gas Against Rioters in Aden

NC3003165095 Paris AFP in English 1605 GMT 30 Mar 95

[By Hammoud Mounassar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Aden, Yemen, March 30 (AFP)—Yemeni police fired teargas and stepped up patrols here Thursday [30 March] to prevent a repeat of street clashes over price hikes in which at least three people were killed, residents said.

Yemeni opposition groups called for mass protests and thousands of students organised protest meetings on the university campus to demand the release of some of their peers arrested during the violence on Wednesday.

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A spokesman for the National Opposition Coalition, grouping eight parties, said "the opposition warns the Yemeni authorities" to abandon the new higher prices for essential goods, including petrol.

He called on Yemenis to "protest and condemn the government's attempts to raise prices without making any official announcement."

The opposition spokesman condemned "the arrests, repression and violence perpetrated by the government against the Yemeni people."

The streets of this southern port city were quiet Thursday but clouds of teargas were hanging over several districts of the city, including Kraytar.

"The police are apparently trying to prevent any further gatherings after yesterday's trouble," said one resident.

According to police sources, three people were killed in the clashes. Hospital workers reported "several wounded" but did not confirm the deaths.

The students' union said Thursday all the wounded students apart from one had left hospital after treatment.

Police first baton-charged rioting demonstrators and used teargas before firing on them, witnesses said. They then surrounded the hospital where casualties were being treated.

The clashes later subsided and the government appealed for calm.

A police spokesman said eight people including a policeman were wounded in the unrest.

"A number of people accused of fomenting unrest were arrested and are being questioned by police and the chief prosecutor," the spokesman said, without giving a figure for detainees.

The demonstrators ransacked a petrol station and threw stones at security forces during the clashes, he added.

Witnesses in Aden said the demonstrators, most of them students and school pupils, also burned tyres and erected barricades.

Petrol prices doubled on Wednesday, from six to 12 riyals per litre (equivalent to six to 12 U.S. cents on the black market). The hike took place without any prior announcement.

A government statement broadcast on state radio after the clashes said subsidies would be scrapped for basic foodstuffs including wheat and flour.

But the price rises were not announced officially Thursday, apparently in response to the demonstrations.

The government said earlier the salaries of state employees would increase by between 20 and 50 percent and soldiers and policemen would also receive a raise.

Shops reopened in Aden on Thursday but certain foods had disappeared from the shelves. School pupils partially boycotted classes in the city, relatives said.

Previously, authorities have accused the ousted Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) of fomenting unrest.

Breakaway leaders of the Aden-based YSP were forced into exile when northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih defeated a southern bid to form a separate state in a May-July 1994 civil war.

Aden, formerly the capital of Marxist South Yemen, suffered extensive damage in the war.

Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the world, has an external debt running into more than seven billion dollars and suffered losses of 11 billion dollars during the war.

YSP Leaders, Rioters Detained

LD3003201395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1828 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Aden, 30 Mar (KUNA)—An official in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], the largest opposition party in Yemen, has said that the political security authorities in Aden today released eight party leaders after detaining them for several hours. In a statement to KUNA in Aden the official said that the political security authorities have arrested leaders of the Socialist Party "arbitrarily." Such arrests were unjustified, he said, and they do not help strengthen security and stability.

One of those released said, in a telephone interview with KUNA's correspondent in Aden, that the intelligence services raided his home this morning and led him forcibly to one of the [detention] camps in the city.

He added: "We were asked to sign a pledge not to participate in any riots that might take place in the city, such as those which happened yesterday. We refused to do so because we are an opposition party and not a rioting gang."

A campaign of arrests, which included many students who took part in yesterday's demonstrations to protest the decision to increase the price of some goods and products, was launched in the city of Aden today.

Prime Minister Views Economic Reform Plans

JN3003160995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani has said the measures taken to correct the economic situation follow a thorough study by the government coalition partners, the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]. He said the GPC and the YRG have made these

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decisions as the first step toward a comprehensive economic reform. He said these decisions are part of a long-term three-year program.

He was speaking at a news conference at the Prime Ministry this morning held by brothers Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani and Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi. The news conference was attended by local, Arab, and international mass media representatives. Information Ministry Undersecretary brother Mutahhar Ahmad Taqi and several ministry officials also attended.

In an opening speech at the news conference, brother 'Abd-al- 'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani reviewed the economic situation the current government inherited due to past accumulation and the conditions that plagued the country. These led to an economic situation requiring much reform. He noted that the Gulf crisis was the first development to affect the economy when it caused the return of some one million Yemeni citizens who accounted for the bulk of hard- currency remittances. He said: Then came the transitional period during which necessary decisions to address the crisis were not made and no remedy of the economic situation was made. Afterward, there were the pre-war and post-war conditions which affected the overall economic situation.

The prime minister said: Since its formation, the government has taken its time before making decisions in order to find the best ways to correct the economic conditions.

Prime Minister Receives 'Ulema, Mosque Preachers

JN3003161695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani this morning met with 'ulema and mosque preachers at the premises of the Ministry of Awqaf and Guidance. The meeting was attended by brothers Ghalib 'Abd-al-Kafi al-Qurashi, minister of awqaf and guidance; Ahmad Muhammad al-Akwa', the ministry's undersecretary for the guidance sector; and several ministry officials.

During the meeting, the prime minister said he was happy to meet with an elite of 'ulema, mosques' preachers, and guides. He said: I was eager to come today to review with you the conditions our country is undergoing, which behoove us all to unify our ranks and support each other to overcome the current situation. He stressed the leading role of 'ulema and preachers, because scholars are the heirs of prophets and they play such a great role in creating awareness in people and guiding them in various issues.

The prime minister praised the great and distinguished role ulema and preachers played during the battle for defending unity—a battle staged against the renegade and secessionist forces to promote unity's foundations. He said: The country today is facing a battle no less important than the military battle against the secessionist forces. This battle is an economic battle which is an extension of the previous one, in which the homeland's enemies failed to tatter the people. However, they continued their conspiracy in a different way, by creating an economic crisis.

He said the faint-hearted are attempting to exploit the economic crisis in order to harm national unity and hamper the implementation of the necessary economic reforms, which are aimed at addressing the current situation and creating stability in the lives of citizens.

The prime minister said: Our people will triumph, God willing, in the battle of economic building, as they did in all the battles they entered for the sake of the revolution and in order to safeguard its national achievements.

The prime minister reviewed the reasons leading to the emergence of the economic crisis and its long-standing accumulations that have existed since the Gulf crisis.

SABA': Large-Scale Administrative Reforms To Occur

JN3103084595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Yemeni News Agency SABA' has learned that a positive change and a large-scale administrative reform process will take place in the various state organs, facilities, and institutions in the very near future. This change will be within the framework of the comprehensive economic, financial, and administrative reform process which has been adopted by the government. This process aims to tackle the current economic, financial, and administrative situation in the country in a way that will purge the state's administrative organ of the corrupt and those who have been used to corruption and those who abuse their duties. It also aims to eliminate all the negative manifestations and disorders which obstruct the comprehensive development process, and which were caused by the traitorous secessionists and their allies within the framework of implementing their conspiratorial plan against the homeland and its unity.

Responsible sources told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that the administrative reform process will focus on electing the qualified, sincere, and honest elements in embodiment of the principle of the right man in the right position. This is to enable them to assume their national responsibilities and to perform their duties to reactivate the administrative apparatus and its role in order to translate the objectives of development and building the modern Yemeni state, the state of law, order, freedom, justice, democracy, and social progress.

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Army Forces Attack Villages Near Irbil, Kifri

LD3003174895 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in English 1619 GMT 30 Mar 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq (30 March)—An IBC [Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation] correspondent reported today that Saddam's forces carried out a two-pronged attack on the centre of Kani Qarzala village on the outskirts of Irbil in the early hours of 30 March.

The attack involved tanks and armoured personnel carriers of the First Mechanised Brigade of the Iraqi army. Saddam's forces prepared for the attack by shelling Kani Qarzala. Around 75 percent of the buildings there, including two schools, were destroyed and all the residents were forced to flee their homes. No reports of casualties were received.

Saddam's forces carried out a second attack on the centre of Karmiyan, near Kifri. The regime's forces prepared for the attack by heavy shelling of the area. Saddam's forces moved through the villages of Salih Rustum Khan, Quri Jay, Rahim Warka and 'Ali Khalf. No losses were sustained by forces loyal to the INC [Iraqi National Congress] which confronted Saddam's troops.

'Heavy Shelling' Reported

NC3103092895 Paris AFP in English 0912 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, March 31 (AFP)—Thousands of Iraqi soldiers backed by tanks and artillery mounted an assault near the northern city of Irbil, the Iraqi Kurdish opposition said Friday.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said opposition forces repelled the attack Thursday [30 March] on Kani-Qirjalah and the main road toward Irbil, the biggest city in Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

"Some 3,000 infantrymen backed by 30 tanks and more than 50 personnel carriers attempted to advance on Kurdish positions," after heavy shelling of the areas, it said.

But Kurdish militiamen and other opposition forces drove back the attack using rocket-propelled grenades and anti-tank missiles.

"There is mounting concern in Iraqi Kurdistan about the coincidence of this latest Iraqi aggression with the Turkish military incursion into the region," the PUK said in a statement sent to Nicosia.

"We appeal to the international community to exercise vigilance and determination to assure the safety and well-being of the Kurdish people in Iraq," it said.

The PUK reported that hundreds of villagers had fled Iraqi shelling, which destroyed dozens of homes and two schools in Kani-Qirjalah township to the south of Irbil.

The Turkish army have since March 20 occupied a border region of northern Iraq to flush out Turkish Kurdish separatists.

Iraqi Kurds have controlled the north since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War, in defiance of Baghdad and with the backing of a US-led coalition force based in southeast Turkey that patrols the skies of northern Iraq.

But the PUK has clashed with its rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) since May at a cost of more than 2,000 lives.

Barzani Troops Accused of Complicity

NC3003165595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1505 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of the joint military coordination and collaboration between the Barzani and 'Aflaqite leaderships and in retaliation for the utter defeat inflicted on the Barzani troops during its offensive against the heroic peshmerga fighters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in areas around Irbil, the 'Aflaqite regime's troops launched a major offensive with tanks and armored vehicles against residential areas in [word indistinct]. The heroic PUK peshmerga fighters succeeded in checking the offensive, inflicting grave losses on the invaders, and forcing the remnant regime troops to retreat in frustration.

Shellfire of the joint Barzani-'Aflaqite leadership damaged several houses, schools, and government offices in (Ganiferjalas) and nearby areas.

Barzani, Talabani Continue To Clash; 140 Killed

TA3103092895 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 0900 GMT 31 Mar 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Barzani and Talabani Kurds continue to fight each other in northern Iraq. ANATOLIA reports that 140 persons were killed in the clashes near Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah. More than 250 were injured.

Foreign Minister Discusses Turkish 'Violation'

JN3003190495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 30 Mar 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by Kamal Tarabayh; place and date not given; from "The Political Week" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tarabayh] Mr. Minister: The Turkish forces which have invaded northern Iraq have been carrying out large-scale military operations in the territory of an independent state. Mr. al-Sahhaf: How are you facing this large-scale military invasion of Iraqi territory?

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[Al-Sahhaf] The Turkish military invasion of Iraq is a blatant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is not the first violation. I would like to tell you that this is the 57th violation since 1991. Following the 30-state aggression against Iraq, the Turkish side has carried out 57 military violations of Iraq's sovereignty and territory. The pretext they use in this regard is to pursue the Turkish armed opposition, or what they call the PKK [the Workers Party of Kurdistan].

Many official quarters in the world and world public opinion have been asking—and this is addressed to us also in most of our contacts with world countries—Why is that? What is the explanation for this? Why do they consider Kurdish armed rebels in Turkey terrorists and the Kurdish armed rebels in northern Iraq democrats? The United States uses a (?gigantic air force) and places it in Turkey to protect what it terms (?defenseless) Kurdish armed rebels in northern Iraq. At the same time, it supports Turkey in its military operation to crush the same kind of Kurdish armed rebels, whom it describes as terrorists.

What I want to say is that it is very serious for any party to violate the sovereignty of other countries under the pretext of chasing an armed opposition. This is a phenomenon which we must pay attention to in the present stage. Has this phenomenon become an alternative to the provisions of the UN Charter, the rules of behavior among states, and international law, which clearly call for respecting state sovereignty and for not endangering security, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity?

What our Turkish neighbors are doing is a big mistake and cannot be justified. As I have told you, the pretext they are using is found strange by the world. So, what is the real story behind this? Why does the Turkish Government accept this strange interpretation presented by the United States and some Western countries which supports Turkey's violation of Iraq's sovereignty and use of military force to pursue the opposition and which, at the same time, support a rebellious armed opposition and provide it with air protection, military effort, and intelligence and espionage information? This is very strange. The Turkish violation cannot be justified. This violation should end as soon as possible and must not be repeated. The repetition of such a situation will largely harm relations between states, something which is unacceptable. We cannot accept any excuse for such acts.

[Tarabayh] Mr. Minister: This is your stand in principle. But practically, what measures or steps have been taken by the Iraqi Government to compel the Ankara government to withdraw its troops from Iraqi territory?

[Al-Sahhaf] We have sent a protest to the Turkish Government and informed the UN Security Council of that. We will continue to use all available channels between Iraq and Turkey, as two neighboring countries, to make our Turkish neighbors understand that such action cannot be tolerated, that an end must be put to it, and that it must not be repeated.

[Tarabayh] Turkish authorities say they informed Baghdad of the incursion in advance. Is this true? What was your response?

[Al-Sahhaf] This is not true. Our response was a clear protest in accordance with the UN Charter and on the basis of good neighborliness between states. We do not accept that Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity can be harmed by anyone. Whether they talked to our ambassador in Ankara or not, this will not change the rules of dealing between nations or the provisions of the UN Charter and the basis of international law.

[Tarabayh] Are you conducting direct contacts with Ankara to resolve this situation?

[Al-Sahhaf] There are open diplomatic channels between Iraq and Turkey. We have an embassy in Ankara. The Turkish Embassy in Baghdad is open. Contacts are continuous. However, this changes nothing about the fact that this is a gross violation of Iraq's sovereignty. Since 1991, there have been 57 violations.

[Tarabayh] Turkish officials are talking about establishing a security zone in northern Iraq. What is your response?

[Al-Sahhaf] In principle, this is categorically rejected. The Turks have reiterated more than once at various official levels that they have no intention of doing such a thing and that they will withdraw their troops. Along with the protest, we demanded, with extreme clarity, that they withdraw immediately.

[Tarabayh] Is there some sort of coordination between the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish forces in northern Iraq to deal with this situation?

[Al-Sahhaf] There is no such coordination. The rebellious Iraqi Kurdish armed groups in northern Iraq can now clearly feel how they have become a card in the hand of foreigners. Therefore, the Iraqi Council of Ministers' recent appeal is the right way. There is no other solution for them but to stop the rebellion and return to the sound course, which is the autonomy agreement. This is the best solution, socially, economically, and politically. There is no other solution. When they became a card in the hand of covetous foreigners, they saw how they were turned into disorganized groups fighting among themselves. Thus, security was lost and the Iraqi Kurdish citizens began to hope for the return of the legitimate authority and national Iraqi administration as soon as possible.

[Tarabayh] Mr. Minister: Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN experts team, said in Kuwait that he had concluded a four-day mission in Iraq during which he obtained full information on the Iraqi chemical program, but he had no information on the germ warfare program. Ekeus revealed that Iraq currently has materials that can be

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used to manufacture germ weapons. Mr. Minister: How do you react to Ekeus' statements?

[Al-Sahhaf] First, there is absolutely no military biological weapons program in Iraq. Second, the materials which they talk about are so-called growth media [preceding two words in English] which means agricultural materials, or agricultural media that can be used in hospitals and for several medical purposes. That material was purchased by Iraq in 1988 and its expiry date is 1993. This means that this material has already reached its expiry date. Of that 32 tonnes of material, a quantity of 15 tonnes is still as it was originally packed, in the original packets and drums. They have known this since 1991, after the 30-state aggression against Iraq; that is, when they started the inspection operations in Iraq.

Second [as heard], Iraq absolutely has nothing called a [biological] military program and the Special Commission knows this. The concerned Iraqi technical team gave them details and a complete inventory about what remained of that quantity. This is absolutely a secondary issue, and Mr. Ekeus knows that this is a secondary issue.

As regards the other fields, yes, there is nothing left, in terms of missiles or chemical weapons. The International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna is about to complete everything regarding the nuclear aspect. Additionally, the long-term supervision system is now complete and functioning.

The emphasis on the so-called biological aspect is an attempt to exaggerate something which, by nature, cannot be exaggerated. This is a deliberate act, not by the Special Commission, but by the U.S. and other media. There is nothing worth mentioning in that regard. The use of terms such as "maybe," "possibly," and "it is thought" means that these are only illusionary assessments. Reality and material evidence confirm that there is absolutely no military program in that field in Iraq, absolutely not. There has never been anything, and there is nothing in that regard. What is being rumored about this subject comes from reports by the U.S. intelligence services. The Special Commission sometimes cannot rid itself of the pressures exerted by the United States and the U.S. intelligence services. When matters are left to the media, we have exaggerations and interpretations, the objective of which is very far from reality and from the scientific work, which you perform when you come to check and verify that there no such thing.

[Tarabayh] In general, have you reached positive results with Mr. Ekeus?

[Al-Sahhaf] Several steps have been made in this positive direction. We believe the closing of this file once and for all and ending the mission of the Special Commission is now very imminent.

[Tarabayh] Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the Arab League celebrated its 50th anniversary at the end of last week. You took part in the meetings of the Arab League Ministerial Council in Cairo. Did you notice, through deliberations and in the atmosphere of the meetings, any signs of real Arab effort to close ranks and achieve even a minimum level of Arab solidarity?

[Al-Sahhaf] Most inter-Arab relations are better achieved outside the Arab League, rather than inside the Arab League.

[Tarabayh] Why?

[Al-Sahhaf] The reason is that the discussion of these talks is clearer and more effective than the discussion in accordance with the agenda. Discussion in the Arab League does not deal with bilateral relations, but with international, not even Arab, aspects of these relations. I believe this is the reason. If we look at the issue in terms of bilateral relations, we will find a tangible improvement among Arab states, as well as a very tangible improvement between Iraq and a number of Arab states, whose stands vis-a-vis Iraq, during the 30-state aggression against Iraq, was not cordial. Now many facts have been revealed and those brothers have begun to take objective stands, based on facts, and realize Iraq's sound, pan-Arab, and cordial stand. This was our stand in the past, this is our stand now, and this is our stand in the future. Iraq has always been an asset for its nation and for its brothers. We have seen this trend clearly through our relations. The same thing applies to the majority of Arab countries in terms of their bilateral relations. Consequently, the overall picture calls for optimism and for more work to strengthen this positive approach among the Arab brothers.

[Tarabayh] Regarding the issue of the two U.S. nationals held in Iraq, the United States insists on releasing them and says that they lost their way; France has intervened in this matter. Is there a possibility of releasing them soon?

[Al-Sahhaf] Regarding the two U.S. nationals, William Edward Barloon and David Daliberti, in fact, the issue is as follows: They entered Iraqi territory at 2000 on 13 March. As you know, people in the past would say that this is a desert, that nobody can know the directions, and that a person might go in the wrong direction. However, after they [the Kuwaitis] dug a trench, set up an electric fence and a barbed-wire fence, as well as following the many incidents on the Iraqi border in which various people were involved—God knows who sent them and what their missions were—the claim that—by God, it was a mistake—is hard to believe. Anyway, our stand has no political purpose at all. We are concerned to implement the laws in Iraq: Whenever a foreigner, regardless of his nationality—without any distinction—carries out such act [words indistinct] and defends himself before Iraq's judiciary, in accordance with the Iraqi law. Article 24 of the Residence Law applies in this case. Regarding these two U.S. persons, whose names I mentioned, they were referred to the Iraqi judiciary. Before they were referred to the Iraqi judiciary, we contacted the U.S interests section in Baghdad, which operates in the

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Polish Embassy, and asked if the official in charge of the section and the consul, who is present at the U.S. section, could attend the trial. They were also asked to appoint a lawyer. The chief of the U.S. interests section and the consul, who work at the Polish Embassy, attended the trial at the al-Karradah Criminal Court, in the al-Rasafah side in Baghdad and a lawyer was appointed. Before the trial, they visited the two persons. A verdict was issued after the trial in accordance with Article 24 of the Residence Law. [Words indistinct] according to the law, they can, and have a right, after a while, to appeal against this verdict, and they might do so.

We have informed our friends in Paris that there is no distinction in this subject. We do not take a different view in this case because they are Americans. Even before the aggression against Iraq in 1991—when there was no severe tension between Iraq and the United States—violators of Iraqi laws were referred to the judiciary and the same verdicts were issued. Therefore, accusing us of anything is baseless. We communicated to our friends in Paris the information which I have just told you.

[Tarabayh] Mr. Minister: Tehran violently and decisively protested the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Turkish troops from Iraqi territory and that Iraq's sovereignty and independence be ensured. How do view this Iranian reaction?

[Al-Sahhaf] In fact, sometimes I cannot help but feel astonished. If Iran protests the Turkish violation of Iraq's sovereignty, I ask the Iranian Government, through this program, to explain why Iran has carried out 1,040 violations of Iraq's sovereignty from 1991 through March 1995. If Iran is really interested in maintaining the provisions of the UN Charter and principles of international dealing and if it is interested in good- neighborliness, why has it carried out 1,040 violations of Iraq's sovereignty and territory from March 1991 through March 1995? I do not want to say that I reject the Iranian protest against the Turkish violation. However, my question is: Why the double standards? Do they want to conceal from the world the fact that they have carried out violations many times more than the ones carried out by Turkey?

[Tarabayh] Mr. Minister: Let us move to the Arab-Israeli negotiations. How do you assess the progress of the ongoing negotiations between the PLO and Israel? How do you view the negotiations that have resumed between Syria and Israel in Washington?

[Al-Sahhaf] I do not have any comment on this subject.

[Tarabayh] What about the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

[Al-Sahhaf] I have no comment on this whole subject; I am sorry.

[Tarabayh] Do you expect, as Yasir 'Arafat says, that an independent Palestinian state will be established soon?

[Al-Sahhaf] I do not have any comment on this subject.

[Tarabayh] Mr. Minister: Did your tour of a number of Arab Gulf states yield any positive results?

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, my visits to both sisterly Qatar and Oman are in this direction. They had very satisfactory results. We and our brothers in Qatar and Oman have clearly noted that. This is natural among Arab brethren.

[Tarabayh] Are there contacts, though indirectly, with Saudi Arabia, for example?

[Al-Sahhaf] This has not happened yet. But I believe that this is the most favorable orientation because it serves the joint interests of all Arab states.

[Tarabayh] Iraq recognized Kuwait within its recognized borders and its territorial sovereignty. In your view, what prevents the achievement of a reconciliation, especially between Baghdad and Kuwait?

[Al-Sahhaf] I ask you to address this question to the Kuwaitis.

[Tarabayh] I asked the Kuwaitis. They said there are many pending issues, led by the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners still held in Iraq.

[Al-Sahhaf] This is yet more proof that those who said this to you are still harboring ill intentions.

[Tarabayh] What about the prisoner issue?

[Al-Sahhaf] There are no Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. He who told you that there are Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq harbors ill intentions and is involved in a scheme, which, I believe, the Kuwait citizen has nothing to do with. It is a U.S. scheme to maintain the state of tension among Arab states. The side standing to benefit from this is the United States, while the Kuwaitis are harmed more than anybody else. There are no prisoners in Iraq. What remains is the issue of missing people, just like there are thousands of missing Iraqis. We have been informed through personal files received via the International Committee of the Red Cross that there are several missing Kuwaitis. We are working together with the Red Cross, the Kuwaitis, and other concerned parties in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

[Tarabayh] My final question, Mr. Minister, is: How do you assess the current relations between Iraq and France?

[Al-Sahhaf] Because of the unfair embargo imposed against Iraq since August 1990, ties between Iraq and France have not yet assumed the material, active, and normal nature of ties that normally exist between any two states. This means there is now no actual trade or actual scientific or industrial cooperation. However, political relations between Iraq and France are gradually improving through contacts that are intensifying daily. We

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hope they will improve further with the growth of contacts. Relations are, practically, returning to normal and, as you know and recall, relations between the two countries were [word indistinct] and good. We had diverse and very advanced relations. These relations are now heading in the direction. We hope that they will be developed even further and gain more momentum, God willing.

[Tarabayh] This means the French position, which is distinct from other Western positions inside the UN Security Council, may help pressure the council to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] Certainly, and France plays a positive and very influential role. France, the Russian Federation, China and several non-permanent members of the Security Council are playing such a role. The positive French role, which we hope will improve even further, has very clear influence in that regard. That position is based on very firm ground. It is based on the fact that Iraq has indeed implemented all the substantive commitments, and even the details, stipulated in Resolution 687. Therefore, when France takes positive positions to support Iraq and help lift the unfair embargo, it is not doing an illegitimate thing. On the contrary, its position is based on a legitimate and very firm ground; that after accepting this and other resolutions, Iraq has fulfilled its obligations as stipulated by these resolutions, and now is the time for the council to fulfill its commitments toward Iraq. Therefore, France is moving in that direction and we are very pleased with this. We are doing our best to make things develop into further positions in order to put an end to this bad chapter, which the region and Iraq faced as a result of the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

[Tarabayh] Thank you Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

[Al-Sahhaf] You are Welcome, Kamal.

Turkish Forces Fail To Reach PKK Headquarters

JN3003212595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 95

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our radio has learned from identical Iranian and Kurdish sources that an Iraqi Kurdish delegation, representing the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by Jalal Talabani, has been in Tehran since Saturday [25 March], and that another delegation, representing the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by Mas'ud al-Barzani, will arrive in Tehran within the next 48 hours. Talabani's delegation is led by Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, member of the parliament and former prime minister. It is believed that al-Barzani's delegation will be led by Dr. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, a member of the KDP Political Bureau and a well-known politician in the KDP leadership who led the Kurdish side to the talks with the Baghdad government before a Kurdish government was declared in northern Iraq.

The two Iraqi Kurdish delegations' visit to Tehran comes within the framework of the efforts, which Tehran has been exerting, in cooperation with Syria, to stop the Kurdish-Kurdish battles. Also, Tehran wants to explore the general situation in northern Iraq following the expansion of the Turkish operation and the intensive talks about Turkey's intention to stay a long time in the area, within the framework of what is known as establishing a security buffer zone.

Well-informed Kurdish sources, who asked to remain anonymous, revealed to our radio that the Turkish Forces have, so far, failed to reach the main headquarters of the Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK] inside northern Iraq because of the presence of forces affiliated with the KDP, which separate the Turkish Forces and the major camp used by Ocalan as his headquarters. The Turkish Forces avoid any confrontation with the KDP forces, as the Kurdish forces said.

Turkish Kurdish units dragged the Turkish Forces to the Iraqi-Iranian-Turkish border triangle in Khwarq [name as transliterated] area to camouflage the PKK headquarters on one hand and to embarrass and pressure the Iranian side on the other, the Iraqi Kurdish sources said.

Four Killed in Turkish Air Attack on Villages

LD3003155595 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., March 30, IRNA—Four people were killed and several injured in the bombardment of two villages in north of Iraq by Turkish Army planes, radio of the Islamic Movement of Iraq's Kurdistan said.

Ensuing the air raid, inhabitants of Shamal Dahuk and Butika [name as received] near the city of al-'Amadiyah left their villages, the radio said.

According to the radio, Turkish troops have occupied al-'Amadiyah. Turkish soldiers have started a door to door inspection and they have looted the citizens' cash and belongings, the radio said. The radio said the situation in Iraq's Kurdistan and ways for countering Turkish Army attacks against northern Iraq were discussed in a meeting in Raniyah on Wednesday by representatives of Iraqi Kurdish parties.

The radio did not mention any decisions in the meeting but it said all the Iraqi Kurdish parties stressed that they are ready to counter the Turkish offensive.

Syrian Diplomat Assails Turkish Operation

JN3003171395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Mar 95 p 31

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni in Tehran]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran has expressed deep concern about the operations, which the Turkish Army is carrying out inside northern Iraq and which have

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reached Iranian borders. Reports from Ankara and Iraqi Kurdistan say there is a growing Israeli-Turkish coordination. Some people even say officers from Israeli intelligence, the Mosad, are taking part in planning the Turkish operation against the fighters of the Turkish Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK].

Some reports even said Israeli intelligence has placed all its security and military expertise at the disposal of the Turkish Army Command and the Ankara government to allow it to benefit from the Israeli experiment in the occupied southern Lebanon. The objective is to find a security buffer zone along the 300 km-border between Turkey and Iraq, with a depth of 30 to 40 km inside Iraqi Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

In another development, the advance of the Turkish Forces inside Iraqi Kurdistan and their arrival at the Iranian and Syrian boundaries—together with the Israeli-Turkish intelligence cooperation in terms of finding a radical solution to the issue of the PKK—not only undermines the joint Turkish-Iranian-Syrian understanding, but will also make both the Iranian and Syrian capitals doubt the real intentions of the Ankara government toward both Iran and Syria.

Ahmad al-Hasan—a senior Syrian diplomat in Tehran and an effective member in the periodic meetings which encompass ministers from Syria, Iran, and Turkey and which have been held over the past two years to discuss the Iraqi Kurdish issue—said: "The size, duration, and suspicious objectives of the recent Turkish operation, particularly in terms of the Israeli Mosad participation, make us believe the operation has exceeded its limits and declared objectives. It constitutes a blatant violation of a sisterly state's sovereignty and is an unacceptable invasion and a serious precedent which must not succeed, because this would endanger peace in the entire region. [passage omitted]

Islamic Group Urges Immediate Turkish Pullout

NC3003160495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 95

[Statement by the International Relations Department of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, SAIRI; issued on 30 March—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Regardless of the pretexts used, the Turkish military incursion into northern Iraq is a flagrant act of aggression against Iraq's national sovereignty and a violation of international law and the UN principles.

This aggression comes at a time when our country is experiencing special circumstances that prevent it from rising to defend itself. Hence, the aggression is another form of pressure on our Iraqi people in Kurdistan, about which they can do nothing.

The incursion's declared objectives do not justify such an extensive military operation on such a broad front, particularly when we learn that it has achieved only scant results so far. This increases our people's doubts about the Turkish Government's aims in Iraq and compounds their fears and anxieties about the incursion's local and regional ramifications.

The incursion comes at a time when Iraq is the scene of a revived jihad movement to rid the country of the dictatorial regime of Saddam Husayn and his criminal gang. This corroborates our view that there is a prior agreement and coordination between Saddam's regime and the Turkish Government with objectives beneficial to these two parties at the expense of the Iraqi people, particularly our Kurdish brothers in the north.

For the Turks to continue their military campaign despite the public denunciations of it and its evident failure to achieve its aims after more than a week supports the view that the incursion has ulterior motives, all of which are harmful to our Iraqi people.

We strongly condemn the Turkish forces' violation of our homeland's national sovereignty. We call on the Turkish Government, if it wants to demonstrate its good intentions and good neighborliness, to withdraw its forces immediately and pay compensation to the demolished villages and the stricken Turkish families for the loss of life and property that they have sustained.

We call on the Iraqi opposition to be vigilant, cautious, and united in order to prevent Baghdad's criminal regime from seizing any available opportunity. This regime does not care about any humiliation that befalls Iraq's sovereignty and national dignity as long as it can guarantee its continued hold on power and its oppression of our people.

We urge the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Arab League to pass new resolutions that will hasten the end of the Turkish aggression against our homeland and ensure that it will not be repeated.

Daily Criticizes 'Two-Faced' Turkish Policy

JN3003160295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA)—The Baghdad paper AL-QADISIYAH has criticized Turkey's two-faced policy on Iraq, as demonstrated in its support of U.S.-Zionist aggression against Iraq, making its territory a base for aggression, opening its border to foreign infiltrators of various nationalities, and dealing opportunistically with the agent Kurdish leaders.

The paper, which specializes in military affairs, says in an article by a "political writer" that the growing activity of the Kurdistan Workers Party's fighters is the outcome of that policy. If not for those Turkish stands, it would not have suffered as much from that activity.

The paper says the Turkish Government's air and land raids inside Iraq designed to liquidate the armed Kurdish movement will be ineffective as long as Turkey's

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borders are open to infiltrators into Iraq and as long as Iraq is not in control of its northern region.

The paper stresses that the Turkish Government is primarily responsible for the prevailing situation in northern Iraq due to the late President Turgut Ozal's short-sighted policy and the current Turkish Government's pursuance of the same policy.

The paper stresses that Turkish officials' good wishes and positive statements about Iraq's national unity and the blockade imposed on Iraq are insufficient. Turkey must take serious positive steps. First, it must evacuate the foreign troops from the base at Incirlik. Second, it must close its border to infiltrators into Iraq and end its dealing with the agent Kurdish leaders. Third, it must coordinate with Iraq about the security and stability of the region.

The paper terms Turkey's violation of Iraqi airspace and territory as an infringement of a neighbors' rights, sovereignty, and national dignity and of the security of Iraqi Kurdish citizens, who are suffering severely under the current circumstances.

Concluding, the paper says continued Turkish violations will be recorded as a negative point in the history of the relations between the two countries. Turkey should reconsider its policy and look for the real reasons for its suffering. It should take the future into consideration and be alert to the U.S. game seeking to harm both Iraq and Turkey.

Saddam's Son Said Receiving Treatment for Gunshots

MM3003141295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Mar 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Confirms 'Udayy's Injury and His Treatment in Jordan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation [IBC], which is attached to the Iraqi National Congress [INC] opposed to the Baghdad government, has confirmed reports previously denied by Jordanian sources and received with reservations by Iraqi opposition sources, to the effect that 'Udayy, the eldest son of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, is receiving treatment in the Jordanian capital Amman for gunshot wounds sustained in an attempt on his life said to have taken place in Baghdad earlier this month.

In a bulletin issued at its headquarters in Salah al-Din in northern Iraq, a copy of which was received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, the IBC said that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn (31) is now receiving "medical treatment at al-Hashimiyah royal palace near al-Husayn medical city in the (Jordanian) capital Amman, and that the treatment was for gunshot wounds in his stomach and neck. His condition has been described as serious." It added that 'Udayy was wounded in the second week of this month "by shots fired by 'Iyadah Dahham, one of 'Udayy's personal protection unit members, who is related to Barzan al-Tikriti, Saddam's half brother and Iraq's representative at the UN's Geneva headquarters." It also said that Husayn Kamil al-Majid, the Iraqi president's brother-in-law and special adviser and the official in charge of Iraqi military industries, was with 'Udayy supervising his treatment.

Reports published last week had claimed that 'Udayy was receiving treatment at al-Husayn hospital in Amman but Jordanian sources denied it. Reports have leaked out of Iraq over the past two years indicating a power struggle between two blocs of senior Iraqi officials around President Saddam Husayn, the first including his sons 'Udayy and Qusayy, his brother-in-law Husayn Kamil, and his cousin 'Ali Hasan al-Majid the defense minister, and the second including half brothers Barzan, Watban (the interior minister), and Sab'awi (the director of public security). The newspaper BABIL, which is run by 'Udayy, has been strongly criticizing the performances of the Interior Ministry and of the Public Security Directorate as well as Barzan's mission in Geneva. That is viewed in the context of the conflict between the two blocs.

Minister Denies Reports

JN3003173895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Baghdad, Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today denied reports published by certain papers of a coup attempt in Iraq in which the Iraqi president's son 'Udayy sustained serious wounds.

The Iraqi minister stressed that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn is alive and well and has appeared on television. He said 'Udayy is practicing sports and functions as the head of the Iraqi Olympic Committee, head of the Iraqi Cultural Grouping, and chairman of BABIL board of directors.

Western, particularly U.S., papers last week published reports saying 'Udayy Saddam Husayn was taken in serious condition on board a helicopter to an Amman hospital following an assassination attempt in Baghdad. Sources close to 'Udayy denied these reports, but there was no denial from any official source.

U.S. Blamed for Avoiding UN Cooperation

JN3103100395 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Mar 95 p 2

[From the "Standpoint" column by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi: "An Obvious U.S. Deception"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States is trying to make the international community believe that the unfair blockade which has been imposed on the Iraqi people is the result of Iraq "not benefiting" from the "facilities" under Resolutions 706 and 712. But Washington does not talk about the substance of these two

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resolutions which, first of all, no longer exist; and second, Washington does not explain to the world why the United States is talking about these two resolutions when Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations under Resolution 687. Washington also does not say why the U.S. Administration is preventing the UN Security Council from fulfilling its obligations to Iraq by lifting the embargo on its exports and other sanctions in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

It has become clear to the international community, especially the Security Council member states, that the United States is trying to avoid the Security Council's obligations to Iraq under Resolution 687. It is also trying to hurt Iraq and its people by prolonging the unfair blockade without any justification.

Several representatives of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council have spoken about the need to deal positively with Iraq by lifting the embargo as soon as Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, submits his report on the monitoring system in April. Ekeus has already announced that the monitoring system is functioning well and that there are only a few outstanding problems, which must have already been resolved in the days which followed Ekeus' recent talks. Iraq has also announced several times during the past few days that it has fulfilled all its obligations to the UN Security Council.

I say that the international community has acknowledged Iraq's cooperation and called for the council's cooperation with Iraq. But the U.S. Administration has tried and is trying to stand against the will of the international community and to set a serious precedent in dealings between states which harms the sovereignty of states and the freedom of peoples and undermines the credibility of the Security Council and UN resolutions.

Washington, which has now remembered Resolutions 706 and 712 and announced through its Secretary of State Warren Christopher that it has failed recently to achieve any result through its participation in a plot against Iraq, cannot deceive the international community and the world public about being "keen" on helping Iraq, especially when it has been imposing an unprecedented embargo on the Iraqi people for more than five years and targeting its political regime and national independence through all forms of armed aggression and foreign plotting.

Therefore, the U.S. Administration is bound to face a difficult situation in the coming days following the exposure of its policy and ill intentions against Iraq and the interests of the world community; nay, even the interests of its western partners who are now fully aware of the situation and are speaking openly about the United States creating all sorts of excuses contrary to the legal interpretations of the Security Council resolutions in order to maintain the blockade.

We are now faced with a pressing issue: The Security Council must carry out its obligations toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Any failure to do so will be harmful not only to the interests of Iraq and its people, but also to the interests of many others whom Washington cannot deceive any longer or compensate their losses from the blockade or drag the Security Council to a road which leads to the unknown.

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Peres Tells Christopher of Readiness To Cede Golan

TA3103083595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Mar 95 pp 1, 12

[Report by Nahum Barne'a and Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad pledged to allow Israel to establish a low-level diplomatic representation in Damascus even before withdrawal from the Golan Heights is completed.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 31 March carries a live telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in New York by Ya'aqov Eylon and Ge'ula Even in the studio. When asked whether he could confirm the YEDI'OT AHARONOT report on Syria's agreement to establish an Israeli representation in Damascus prior to a withdrawal from the Golan, Beilin says: "No, I cannot confirm such a thing or say whether or not negotiations are currently being held on such issues. To the best of my knowledge, the talks are currently focusing on the security arrangements."]

The pledge was reported by a very senior source at a closed forum this week. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres informed Christopher during his tour of the region last week that if Israel and Syria reach reasonable security arrangements, Israel will agree to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights. [YEDI'OT AHARONOT publishes on pages 2 and 3 of its LESHABAT supplement a related report by Shim'on Schiffer and Nahum Barne'a, which adds: "No commitment was made to al-Asad. Not in so many words—merely by implication from Christopher."]

"Israel is prepared to go all the way with Syria," Peres informed Christopher, "provided it receives guarantees for appropriate security arrangements and a timetable for a phased withdrawal and the normalization of relations between Jerusalem and Damascus is set."

Rabin is convinced the Lebanese issue will also be resolved within the framework of the agreement with Syria: An agreement with Lebanon will be part of the Syrian package, but its implementation—the cessation of terror originating in Lebanon and the Israeli exit from the south Lebanese security zone—will be carried out much faster.

Beilin Urges 'Accelerated' Progress in Syria Talks

TA3103060195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that certain progress has been made in the ambassadors' talks between Syria and Israel in Washington. The deputy foreign minister asserted, however, that unless the rate of progress was accelerated it would be impossible to attain peace before the end of 1995. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan spoke with Beilin after the deputy minister's meeting with U.S. peace team coordinator Dennis Ross, who participated in the talks between Israeli ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] There is a very good feeling here from the talks between Ambassadors Rabinovich and al-Mu'allim. Both men met together and separately with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Following these meetings, a decision was made to send Dennis Ross to the Middle East where he will next take part in the meetings of the steering committee at the Amman conference and engage in shuttle diplomacy between Damascus and Jerusalem. This visit may subsequently lead to talks between senior military officers.

[Golan] You mentioned the ambassadors' talks. After two weeks of very intensive negotiations, the question is whether or not you can report any progress in the talks toward an agreement on security arrangements?

[Beilin] We are dealing here with details. To my great regret, we are still not talking about breakthroughs or issues that can be addressed through the media. I can only say that these talks exclusively deal with security arrangements. I can say that certain progress was made on this issue. Over the past few months, we have never made any public statements on the nature of progress in this negotiations track, and I believe it would be better to pursue this policy with regard to the discussions on the security arrangements.

[Golan] You talk about certain progress and mention the positive atmosphere in Washington; however, we keep hearing a different tune from Damascus. Syria continuously reiterates its demand of all of the Golan Heights, presenting this as a precondition for making any progress.

[Beilin] Our problem is not with Syria's demands, the same way it is not with the Palestinian, Lebanese, or any other demands. The question is whether negotiations are possible with the other side's presenting their demands and Israel's presenting its own. I believe we are approaching this moment. I very much hope it will become a reality because one thing is worth mentioning: Despite the optimism felt here, mainly among U.S. officials, with regard to the Syrian-Israeli track, the prevailing assessment is that if the present rate of progress continues, it will be impossible to achieve peace in 1995, which means that it will also be unattainable in 1996.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin. [end recording]

Rabin Explains Objectives of Meeting With Kohl

TA3003154095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Mar 95

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin says that his meeting with Chancellor Kohl lasted about four hours and that the objective was a discussion of the changing circumstances [not further specified] and of some concrete issues, such as the Ron Arad affair.

[Begin Rabin recording] There are issues—such as the efforts to obtain information about Ron Arad's fate—in which Germany has played a greater role than other countries. For a long time, Germany was probably the main channel for the transfer of such information. [end recording]

The prime minister stressed that his meeting with the chancellor had been set a week ago. We did not want the week to be spent in speculation, Rabin said, explaining the fact that the meeting was not announced in advance.

The prime minister made these remarks at a commemoration service at Kibbutz Ginosar to mark the 15th anniversary of Yig'al Alon's death.

Deputy Chief of Staff: 'Terrorism' Can Halt Talks

TA3103055995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Chief of Staff Matan Vilna'i said yesterday that although terrorism does not endanger Israel's existence it constitutes a threat to the individual security of every citizen and influences the decisionmaking process of the country's leaders. Matan Vilna'i was speaking at a memorial ceremony marking the 15th anniversary of Yig'al Alon's death. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports:

[Begin Vilna'i recording] There were 50 terrorist incidents along the Lebanese border alone in March 1995. This is more than double the number we used to encounter several years ago. Terrorism does not pose a threat to our existence. It does, however, threaten the individual security of each and every one of us. Once it was a threat to people on the front lines, in peripheral settlements, or to soldiers along the borders. Today it threatens citizens on Dizengoff Street, in Binyaney Ha'uma, and in every corner and place in Israel. As a result of this, terrorism has become a strategic tool because it influences the decisionmaking process of the country's leaders. Today, terrorism can for all practical purposes halt the process of dialogue between the Arab world and Israel. [end recording]

Saudis Want Israeli-Arabs To Carry Palestinian Papers

NC3103143095 Paris AFP in English 1351 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, March 31 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia wants Israeli-Arabs to carry Palestinian papers to enter the country for the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca in May, a Palestinian "minister" revealed Friday [31 March].

Jamil al-Tarifi, who is in charge of civilian affairs, told AFP however that Israel had turned down the request and would be held responsible if Israeli-Arabs could not make the pilgrimage.

"We have been informed by the Saudis that all Palestinian pilgrims, including those coming from the state of Israel, must have passports issued by the Palestinian Authority to enter Saudi Arabia," he said.

Al-Tarifi said Saudi Arabia apparently wanted to include the Israeli-Arabs on the Palestinian quota for the annual pilgrimage, known as the hajj. Riyadh imposes quotas for each country according to population.

In past years, Israeli-Arabs like many Palestinians have travelled to Mecca with temporary Jordanian travel documents and been included on Jordan's quota, as Saudi Arabia does not officially recognize Israel.

But the Palestinian self-rule authority is now issuing its own passports and plans to hand out the first for residents of the autonomous areas making the trip to Mecca.

Israel's Interior Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said Israeli-Arabs would not be allowed to leave with Palestinian documents. "If the Saudis want to give them additional papers, we have no objection."

Lift Hajj Restrictions

TA3003200995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Procedures for making the pilgrimage to Mecca have been eased for Israeli Muslims. There will no longer be any restrictions on age and numbers, and each Muslim with an Israeli passport will be able to go to Saudi Arabia via Jordan.

Link Between Muslims, European Right Wing Noted

TA3103110295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Mar 95 p 22

[Report by Batsheva Tsur]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Growing collaboration between fundamentalist Moslem groups and the extreme Right in Europe has led to a dangerous rise in antisemitic activities in the past year, according to the Annual Report on Antisemitism in the World, compiled by Tel Aviv University, the World Jewish Congress, and the Anti-Defamation League.

The report notes an increase in violence against Jews, mostly with the intent to kill.

Presented to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday in Tel Aviv, the report notes tens of thousands of Moslem activists who have joined fundamentalist groups over the past year throughout Europe, particularly in Germany

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and France, as well as in North America. The fundamentalists are involved in antisemitic activity both on their own and in collaboration with xenophobic right-wing groups.

The number of violent antisemitic crimes against Jews rose from 42 in 1993 to 72 last year, the report noted. A worrisome phenomenon was the spread of violent activity in Western Europe, where there were 32 such incidents last year, compared with 15 in 1993. [passage omitted]

IDF Confirms Air Force Raids in South Lebanon

TA3103093595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman published a statement a short while ago about today's incidents in south Lebanon. The statement said that over the last few hours, IDF forces have been attacking terrorist bases in south Lebanon belonging to the Hizballah organization. Israel Air Force jets and helicopters are also participating in this activity.

Jordan, Egypt Participate in Jerusalem Conference

TA3003062395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Jordanian representative last night joined the conference of foreign ministry heads which opened yesterday morning in Jerusalem. He is Ramiz al-Qusus, the charge d'affaires at the newly opened Jordanian Embassy in Tel Aviv, and the Israeli Foreign Ministry notes he is acting on instructions from Amman. The only other Arab country which sent a representative to the conference was Egypt. It sent former Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil. Morocco was to have taken part, but canceled its participation at the last moment.

Savir Informed Vietnam Embassy To Open

TA3103075495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vietnam will open an embassy in Israel. Until now, the Vietnamese ambassador in Cairo was also accredited to Israel.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir was informed of the embassy's impending opening by the Vietnamese deputy foreign minister who is currently visiting Israel. The deputy foreign minister also said that Vietnam is interested in forging closer economic relations with Israel.

Peres to Propose Nuclear Weapons Free Middle East

LD3103084895 London THE TIMES in English 31 Mar 95 p 12

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Julian O'Halloran in London; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel is ready to propose a Middle East free of non-conventional weapons and missiles as soon as a regional peace is assured, Shim'on Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister and "father" of the state's nuclear programme, said.

"We shall be the first to propose a Middle East free of nuclear weapons. We are very serious about it," he said in an interview to mark his visit to London. Though Israel does not, officially, admit that it has a nuclear capability, it is thought to have some 200 nuclear weapons.

The Israeli arms have become a stumbling block for Britain and America as they try to cajole the world's non-nuclear powers into supporting an indefinite extension of the 25-year-old Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty (NPT).

The United Nations conference on its renewal begins on April 17 in New York. Of the 172 countries that have signed the treaty, scores are arguing that it has been implemented unfairly.

Egypt, Iran and Mexico, among others, object to the fact that signatories would have to accept International Atomic Energy Agency inspections and safeguards at their nuclear plants for an indefinite period, while a small minority led by Israel refuse to sign the treaty and have built their own nuclear arsenals.

Mr Peres was unable to be specific about the timetable. "I cannot commit myself about a year or two years, but I'm sure in your lifetime, I hope in my lifetime," he said. "I think it will happen sooner than we think." Mr Peres is 71. He played the key role in setting up Israel's nuclear reactor at Dimona in the Negev Desert in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He also devised Israel's "studied ambiguity" over whether it had nuclear weapons, and the formula ritually repeated ever since, that Israel "will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East". "We delivered two messages," he said. "One to our friends and the other to our enemies. To our friends we said: 'We shall not introduce nuclear weapons. And to our enemies we say, 'Keep guessing.'

"First of all, I didn't say we have a nuclear weapons capability. But the real condition necessary is a peaceful Middle East because, for example... you cannot say: 'I am giving up the suspected nuclear capacity of Israel.' But I can say that in order to do so, we have to have 'challenge inspections'."

What Mr Peres seems to be suggesting is that if Israel ever did go down the road of nuclear disarmament, it would not want to entrust itself to an international nuclear safeguard system so flawed as the present one.

Israel would not be willing to dismantle its nuclear weapons, join the NPT and then allow IAEA inspectors to place all its nuclear facilities under safeguards. Israel's argument is that it has been shown to be ludicrously easy for one of its neighbours to hoodwink the IAEA.

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By challenge inspections Mr Peres is referring to sudden intrusive searches. This is exactly what the IAEA failed to do in Iraq.

Instead of the IAEA, Mr Peres would prefer to send his own inspectors into neighbouring countries. But if this is dismissed by Israel's critics, what about the idea of stopping the production of plutonium as a gesture?" By and large I would favour it, but it makes me wonder if we can guarantee the real cut-off. But the idea there is a good one."

Until there has been a radical shake-up in the safeguards system, Israel has a plausible excuse for rejecting it. But if a reliable system could be achieved. Mr Peres hinted that Israel might be willing to make its contribution.

"In my life," he said, "I started with Dimona and I am winding up with Oslo. The purpose is... to deter the ones that wanted to destroy us and I feel this policy is justified, and I hope the second half will become the complete story, namely the peace story."

IDF: Gaza Incident 'Definitely a Terrorist Attack'

TA3003191495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tonight, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] resolutely stated that yesterday's incident at Qarney Netzarim, in which two policemen were killed, was definitely a terrorist attack.

A debriefing showed that the Gaza driver deliberately crashed his truck into an Israeli vehicle, raised a revolver—although it was made of plastic—and demanded that the passengers in the civilian vehicle raise their hands. One of the passengers shot at him but missed, and then three soldiers from an escort vehicle approached and fired at the driver.

Ramon, Burg, Bar'am 'Most Popular' Labor Figures

TA2803103195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Mar 95 p 13

[Report by Menahem Rahat; figures as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hayim Ramon, Avraham Burg, and 'Uzi Bar'am are the most popular Labor Party members among both party supporters and non-Labor voters.

This was revealed in a poll conducted by Gallup Israel, which rated the popularity of 15 political figures: 14 Labor members and Meretz Minister Yosi Sarid.

The poll encompassed 552 Jewish interviewees over the age of 18, 200 of whom identified themselves as Labor constituents.

The interviewees were asked to reply to the following question regarding each of the 15 figures: "Would you like him to represent Labor in the next Knesset?"

Hayim Ramon came in first, winning the endorsement of 80 percent of the Labor voters and 71 percent of the general public.

He was followed by Avraham Burg, with 85 percent support among Labor voters and 67 percent among the general public.

Minister 'Uzi Bar'am came in third, with 73 percent among Labor voters and 56 percent among the general public.

The others were rated in the following order: Minister David Liba'i, Minister Shim'on Peres, Minister Efrayim Sne, Minister Shim'on Shetrit, Deputy Minister Yosi Beilin, Minister Moshe Shahal, and Knesset Members Ori Or and Hagay Merom.

Minister Yosi Sarid, Minister Mikha Harish, and Minister Yisra'el Qeysar closed the list.

Sarid Urges Internal Meretz Elections To Decide Leader

TA3003163395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid says surveys show that he has a better chance than the current head of Meretz, Minister Shulamit Aloni, of being voted in to the top party position. Sarid called for internal elections to determine who will be in charge.

In response, Minister Aloni said she has heard of no such polls concerning the Meretz leadership. She says it would be a mistake, 20 months before the general election, to produce an election atmosphere, as she put it, even as the Likud is leading in the national surveys.

'AL HAMISHMAR Closed; DAVAR's Future 'Uncertain'

TA3103111695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 'AL HAMISHMAR newspaper published its final issue today. Two days ago, the Hakibbutz Ha'artzi Secretariat decided to close the newspaper due to financial difficulties.

The future of DAVAR also seems uncertain after businessman Jean Friedman announced yesterday that he was withdrawing from his plan to purchase the newspaper. Friedman communicated his decision at a meeting with [Environment] Minister Yosi Sarid, with whom he maintains political ties, and Histadrut Treasurer Hayim Oron. [passage omitted]

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King Meets With Perry, Arab Envoys in Washington

JN3103065195 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We start in Washington, where His Majesty the king has visited the U.S. Defense Department and has been accorded an official welcoming ceremony, including a 21 gun salute.

His majesty held talks with Defense Secretary William Perry on bilateral ties, particularly Jordan's defense needs. The king said raising the standard of the Jordanian Army and fostering means of military cooperation between Jordan and the United States will enable the kingdom to play its historic role in preserving security and stability in the Middle East.

His majesty underlined close Jordanian-U.S. relationship, and recalled the distinguished ties during the years of the Cold War.

Last evening, his majesty received at his residence in Washington Arab ambassadors and diplomats accredited to the United States. He briefed them on the latest developments in the peace process, asserting Jordan's pursuit to achieve a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the region, and vowing to spare no effort in contributing to fulfill the aspired peace.

Government Seeks $1 Billion in Annual U.S. Aid

JN3003151295 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 30 Mar 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ranking government sources have described the outcome of the talks His Majesty King Husayn held Washington with U.S. President Clinton and U.S. Congressmen as very good. The talks are considered very good in terms of the U.S. Administration's recognition of the important regional role Jordan is playing to entrench the pillars of the peace process in the Middle East region and in terms of this administration's reiteration of its commitment to offering economic and military aid to Jordan.

The same sources revealed that Jordan asked the United States to include it in the list of friendly countries to which the U.S. Administration offers annual economic aid. This is in light of the major role Jordan has played to make the peace negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track a success and which led to the signing of the peace treaty last October.

The sources explained that Jordan's first objective at this stage is to urge the U.S. Administration to offer annual economic aid to Jordan that amounts to $1 billion, like other countries which receive U.S. annual economic aid.

The sources said the Jordanian request for annual economic aid follows recent positive signs by the U.S. Administration which show its acceptance of the Jordanian request, beginning with a pledge to write off Jordan's debts and study its defense needs and ending with considering Jordan one of the most favored nations in terms of offering aid.

Marwan al-Qasim Expected To Form New Government

JN3003155295 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Mar 95 p 24

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—AL-ITTIHAD has learned from reliable sources in Amman that the Jordanian Government will be reshuffled soon in view of disagreements among the ministerial team of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

These sources expect Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim to form the government. They also expect the government to include 21 ministers instead of 30. Certain ministries are expected to be merged and the number of state ministers is expected to be reduced.

Court Rejects 11 Death Sentences in 'Afghan' Case

NC3003155395 Paris AFP in English 1529 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, March 30 (AFP)—Jordan's appeal court Thursday [30 March] rejected 11 death penalties and other verdicts passed by a security court against Islamist veterans of the Afghan war in connection with bombings and planned murders.

"The appeal court deemed the indictment insufficient and sent the case back to the same court for reassessment," a legal source told AFP.

"The security court was asked to hear three more eyewitnesses, whose testimonies had been dropped at the request of the prosecution," the source added.

It was the second such verdict by the appeal court in three weeks.

On March 13, the highest judicial body in Jordan overturned death sentences and life imprisonments against eight Islamists, found guilty by the security court of plotting to assassinate King Husayn. The eight were released.

The higher security court, made up of three military judges, passed the death sentence on December 12 against 11 out of 25 defendants in the "Afghans" case.

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The court found them guilty of "conspiring to carry out terrorist attacks and possessing illegal" explosives, after bomb attacks on cinemas in January and February 1993 that injured nine people.

Three of those condemned to death—a Saudi, an Omani and a Jordanian of Palestinian origin—were tried in their absence. The court also sentenced six others to terms ranging from hard labour for life to 12 years in jail.

The Islamists, veterans of the Afghan war in the 1980s, also allegedly plotted to assassinate Jordanian and Palestinian figures involved in peace negotiations with Israel.

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Russia's Kozyrev Arrives, Makes Statement

NC3103092995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has arrived in Beirut. He was received by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Kozyrev will hold talks with President Ilyas al- Hirawi and Minister Buwayz. A trade cooperation agreement is expected to be signed during this visit. Kozyrev is accompanied by an official delegation of diplomats, businessmen, and bankers. [passage omitted]

Meets al-Hirawi, Comments on Talks

NC3103133795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our correspondent at B'abda Palace Yazbik Wahbah made the following report on the Russian foreign minister's visit:

[Begin Wahbah recording] Andrey Kozyrev is the first Russian foreign minister to visit Beirut since the collapse of the former USSR. Kozyrev, whose visit to Lebanon will last just five hours, arrived at the presidential palace at 1340 today. Immediately afterward, Kozyrev met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi. [passage omitted]

At the end of their meeting, Kozyrev said: I expressed my satisfaction at Lebanon's efforts to achieve national reconciliation. He added: We have always backed the Lebanese people for the sake of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. We are helping Lebanon now, especially in the economic domain.

Responding to a question about the talks and the peace negotiations, the Russian foreign minister said: We are endeavoring to guarantee positive changes on the Lebanese track on the basis of implementing Resolution 425. I will discuss this topic in Israel tomorrow.

Regarding the Syrian track, Kozyrev said efforts will be made to achieve success on this track. He concluded: We have good relations with both Israel and the Arab countries. This will enable us to advance the peace process. [end recording]

U.S. Official Arrives, Meets With al-Hariri

NC3003194695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official source has disclosed that Richard Murphy, former U.S. assistant secretary of state, visited Beirut and held talks with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today.

This secret visit is the first visit to Lebanon by a U.S. official since the brief visit of Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary for state for Middle Eastern affairs, on 9 December.

The Lebanon Television said Murphy held talks for several hours with Prime Minister al-Hariri on recent developments in the region, especially the peace process. The television added that the U.S. official and al-Hariri toured central Beirut, but it gave no further details.

Murphy probably arrived in Beirut from Damascus, where he has been leading a U.S. Foreign Relations Council delegation since Monday.

Murphy's visit comes at a time when the U.S. Administration has banned its nationals from traveling to Lebanon since 1985 after a U.S. plane was hijacked to Beirut and one of its passengers was killed.

Al-Hariri Accused of Destruction, Involvement in War

NC3003152095 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 19 Mar 95 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Al-Hariri is a Dangerous Man"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's revelations in the AL-WASAT magazine regarding the Lebanese war is very serious. It can be easily inferred that Prime Minister al- Hariri financed some of the war and military operations undertaken by the militias, which claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent Lebanese.

It is very serious when al-Hariri appears in this image as he is prime minister of the Lebanese Government. His talk about what he was told by Ilyas Hubayqah with regard to the al-Ashrafiyah operation shows that al-Hariri was involved in the operations room that directed the war in Lebanon, specially as the al-Ashrafiyah operation killed and injured hundreds of people and caused heavy damages to the heart of the capital, Beirut.

Reports appearing in the press and memoirs indicate that Prime Minister al-Hariri or some financial circles close to him financed the destruction of houses east of Sidon. Al-Harari later bought thousands of acres and became the largest landholder east of Sidon after the displacement of their poor inhabitants and the purchase of their lands at very cheap prices by the then Lebanese businessman Rafiq al-Hariri who is now the head of the Lebanese Government and will soon be in charge of the Lebanese state.

The reports about the demolition of houses in central Beirut and about preventing their owners and tenants from returning to them are very serious. The reports that some circles financed the war of the markets so as to destroy the commercial center are very serious. Similarly serious is the fact that all this should happen and then to see the "Solidere" Company emerge and start to buy the capital from the Lebanese who were prevented by the war of the markets from returning and to see al-Hariri become the owner of Beirut, its markets, and the most expensive piece of land in the whole Middle East.

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This man's position is very dangerous. Prime Minister al-Hariri is a dangerous man because authority in Lebanon is in his hands. Several things about al-Hariri emerged in the past few months and every Lebanese now has to ask the following questions:

-How did al-Hariri come to power?

-From where did al-Hariri come to power?

-What means did he use and is using in and outside the government?

-Where does al-Hariri want to take Lebanon? What was his role during the war? How did he become the man of development and reconstruction in this mysterious way?

Prime Minister al-Hariri will not stay in power a single moment once the Lebanese start to ask these questions and attempt to find the answers.

Israeli Reinforcements Brought Into Marj 'Uyun

NC3003173095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli forces shelled al-Luwayzah, Mlita, and Jabal Safi from their positions in al-Zaffatah at 1400 today. According to reports from the western al-Biqa', the Mimis sector, Jabal al-Dahr, and Jabal Abu-Rashid came under sporadic Israeli shelling this afternoon.

Reports from the occupied border strip indicate that the Israelis have brought a large armored force into Marj 'Uyun. They stationed 14 armored vehicles on al-Shurayqi Hill north of the town and 10 long-range 175-mm artillery pieces on the Marj 'Uyun plain.

Israeli 'Cobra' Destroys 'Resistance' Official's Car

NC3103131795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An Israeli helicopter made a raid against the car of Rida Yasin Abu-'Ali, a.k.a. Abu-'Ali al-'Atshiti, an official in the Islamic Resistance, in the Dirdghayya area. According to our security correspondent, an Israeli Cobra helicopter fired an air-to-surface missile at the Resistance official's Mercedes, hitting it directly. The helicopter fired another missile, which destroyed the car completely. The helicopter then overflew the blazing car until the pilot ascertained that the target was completely destroyed. The helicopter was escorted by three F-16 fighter planes, which released thermal balloons to elude the Resistance's ground fire.

The Resistance retaliated by ambushing an Israeli mechanized force that was passing through Sujud. The Resistance issued a statement to this effect, saying that its group clashed with the Israeli force using rockets and machine guns. The Resistance stressed that its fighters succeeded in inflicting casualties on the force and destroying several vehicles. Shortly afterward, Israeli warplanes attacked the outskirts of 'Ayn Bu Siwar with air-to- surface missiles in an attempt to ease the pressure on the ambushed force and to prevent the Resistance artillery from stepping in.

Elsewhere, Israeli paratroopers used two Cobra helicopters to land on the Jabal Safi side of Sujud to support the besieged force and to attack the Resistance from the rear. In the clashes that broke out one Israeli soldier was killed and two wounded. Two resistance members were also injured during the fighting. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Leader: Europe Has 'Primary Role' in Middle East

BR3103125995 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 30 Mar 95 p 6

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah by Tomas Alcoverro in Beirut; date not given: "Islam Will Become Increasingly Powerful and Influential in the World"—first paragraph is LA VANGUARDIA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hassan Nasrallah was elected general secretary of Hizballah, the Party of God and the organization to which the Southern Lebanon Shi'ites belong, just two days after the death of 'Abbas Musawi who was killed in an Israeli raid in 1992. He belongs to a family descended from the prophet Muhammad which is why his head is always covered with the distinctive black turban. He studied in Najaf and Qom, the Shi'ite Muslims' holy cities.

[Alcoverro] What is the reason for the great popular success of the Islamic fundamentalists in the Middle East and North Africa?

[Nasrallah] There are two reasons. First, their ideas can adapt perfectly to what the various peoples think and feel. Other ideologies and political beliefs from the West have failed miserably and have not brought independence, liberty, or dignity for the people. They embraced Islam after having tried the other political philosophies. Second, those systems of government have not managed to resolve either the economic crisis or the crisis faced by the regimes. I am convinced that the Islamic movement will become increasingly more powerful and influential in the world.

[Alcoverro] Do you believe we are experiencing a war of civilizations?

[Nasrallah] Yes. The West has declared war on Islam. The thinking and the logic of capitalism are not the same as those of the Muslims. Now the countries of the West are getting together to assess the threats of Islam. Since the fall of the Soviet Union they now consider Islam to be a force to be reckoned with.

[Alcoverro] Does Europe have any say in what happens in the Middle East?

[Nasrallah] The European nations have a primary role to play in this region and they cannot allow the Americans

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to monopolize things here. It is in their own political and economic interests not to forget the millions of Muslims in the world and they cannot let themselves be led astray by the objectives of the United States.

[Alcoverro] Does Syria hold the key to resolving the conflict between Arabs and Israelis?

[Nasrallah] The solution does not depend simply on a government, but a whole people. If Israel does not withdraw completely from all the territories of Palestine then Syria and Lebanon will not be able to agree to a peace plan that for the time being represents a Hebrew and North American peace only.

[Alcoverro] What are the links between Hizballah and the Palestine fundamentalists of Hamas?

[Nasrallah] We agree with them that we have to liberate our lands. We coordinate with Hamas at the political level, but each organization has its own aims since we are fighting in the south of Lebanon and their battle is in Palestine. From an organizational viewpoint we are two separate groups.

[Alcoverro] Is there still a risk of kidnapping for Westerners living in Lebanon?

[Nasrallah] The best proof of the fact that there is no danger is your presence among us here today. Recently delegations of British and American journalists visited these suburbs of Beirut, mixing with its people, and they were able to travel to Tiro and Ba'labakk which their press calls "Hizballah country" without any problems at all.

[Alcoverro] What about in your daily life? Do you feel at all threatened?

[Nasrallah] When I chose this path I knew it would be difficult. However, this is only my temporal life and eternal life will follow in the hereafter. Of course I have taken great precautions for my own safety but I manage to live normally. I believe in my destiny.

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Envoy to U.S. Explains Status of Washington Talks

NC3003194095 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus denied today Israeli reports that an agreement was imminent on a declaration in principle on the Golan Heights issue. Syrian Ambassador to Washington Walid al-Mu'allim told MBC that the idea of a declaration of principles is out of the question because the two sides are negotiating over a direct peace agreement. Al-Mu'allim voiced his satisfaction with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's direct participation in the negotiations, seeing in it a demonstration of the U.S. willingness to play the role of full partner in the peace process.

Our correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi reports:

[Begin recording] [Fahmi] Syrian officials have criticized Shim'on Peres' overly optimistic remarks about the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. The Syrians affirm that they are not negotiating with the Israelis to reach a declaration of principles. They explain that they criticized the Palestinians and Jordanians for signing declarations of principles before reaching peace agreements that spell out everything in detail. They point out that Syria does not want to make the same mistake.

[Al-Mu'allim] For two years now, we have avoided discussing a declaration of principles. In line with a proposal from the U.S. sponsor, we have started to negotiate over a conclusive peace agreement.

[Fahmi] The Israelis are saying that concrete progress has been made in the discussions over the security arrangements. Is this true? How would you describe the progress so far?

[Al-Mu'allim] Since I returned to Washington after Secretary Christopher's Middle East tour, we have started a serious discussion about the principles that should govern the security arrangements. I cannot say, however, that we have reached agreement. Each party looks at the issue from its own perspective. I believe that the principles governing the security arrangements are indivisible. Unless an overall agreement is reached over all the principles governing the security arrangements, we cannot say that there is progress.

[Fahmi] It should be noted that the Israelis still oppose the implementation of an important principle pertaining to the security arrangements, namely the need to have reciprocal arrangements on both sides of the border. Secretary Christopher intervened personally in the negotiations and two days ago he met with the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors to give the negotiations a boost.

[Al-Mu'allim] This time the U.S. sponsor, by participating effectively in the talks, is playing the role of a real partner. Secretary Christopher met with us to demonstrate the U.S. Administration's commitment to a comprehensive peace process. This administration is saying that it will do its utmost to attain a just and comprehensive peace. Christopher wished to make an effort to bridge the gap between the Syrian and the Israeli positions on the principles and objectives of the security arrangements.

[Fahmi] While Israeli sources assert that Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, will visit the Middle East on 5 April to expand the scope of the negotiations by including military officials in them, the Syrian ambassador has reservations about this possibility.

[Al-Mu'allim] I believe that it is premature to speak of meetings other than the meetings that the ambassadors are holding. [end recording]

Russia's Kozyrev Meets al-Asad; Agreement Signed

JN3003150995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Russian ambassador in Damascus, Viktor Gogitidze. Kozyrev conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

A round of official talks had been held this morning between the Syrian side, led by al-Shar'; and the Russian side, led by Kozyrev. [passage omitted] The talks dealt with the international and regional situation, as well as the developments in the peace process. The two sides also reviewed the international conference for reviewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] scheduled to convene in New York on 17 April. Within this framework, the two sides reaffirmed the importance of the NPT on the international level and the need for activating it, filling the gaps in it, and not excluding any country from it. The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and ways to expand and enhance them in all fields.

At the end of the talks, both countries' foreign ministers signed a five-year agreement for cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries. The agreement will be renewed automatically.

Calls Talks 'Significant'

JN3003174695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev described his talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' as significant, fruitful, and constructive.

In a statement to reporters following his meeting with al-Shar', Kozyrev said that he discussed with al-Shar' bilateral relations and ways to promote them. He added that he has new ideas to advance the peace process. He said his country is interested in the progress of this process.

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Demands Active Participation in Talks

JN3103111495 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 31 Mar (SANA)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left Damascus this morning at the end of a three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Russian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Before his departure, Kozyrev made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he described his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad as successful and positive, and expressed his thanks to his excellency who received him yesterday and gave him much of his valuable time.

He said: I discussed with President Hafiz al-Asad a number of important issues, including the peace process, and he briefed me in detail on developments and his position on them, and we agreed on ways to develop and bolster bilateral relations.

Kozyrev said: We discussed the Middle East peace process, and I think that the difficulties facing the negotiations require active Russian participation in order to advance these negotiations, and this is the objective of our visit to the region.

He said Russian Assistant Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk may return to Damascus at the end of his tour in the region.

Asked about his talks with Kozyrev, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: I think that Kozyrev had a good meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday, and the talks we held were positive and constructive. We discussed bilateral relations, and the two countries aspire to develop these relations in all fields. We also discussed the peace process and how to advance it especially in light of the difficulties facing the two [Syrian and Israeli] ambassadors in Washington.

Al-Shar' said: We also discussed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and agreed that no country should be excluded from joining it during the meeting in New York next April.

The minister said that talks also dealt with the international situation and regional issues of mutual concern, and said: I can say that we are satisfied with the results of Kozyrev's visit to Syria.

When Kozyrev was asked if he intends to use his good offices to force Israel to sign the NPT, especially since his country is a cosponsor of the Middle East peace process, he replied: The problem of the NPT is very important, and we believe that it should be implemented in a [word indistinct] manner and extended indefinitely [bi shakil niha'i]. This is our position, and I think that it is important for Syria and other Arab countries to adopt a balanced and constructive position on the treaty, and we will discuss this subject during our tour.

Libyan Official Departs After Joint Meeting

JN3103120895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Tahir al-Juhaymi, secretary of the General Committee for Economy and Trade in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya left Damascus today at the end of a week-long visit to the Syrian Arab Republic during which he led the Libyan side to the joint Syrian-Libyan Higher Committee.

Al-Juhaymi was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Ihmayyid Jallud, secretary of the Libyan relations office in Damascus.

Commentaries Seek 'Just, Comprehensive' Peace

JN3103113895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Mar 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In one of its commentaries, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH writes about the Syrian stand toward the peace process. It stresses that this stand is firm, clear-cut, and inalienable under all circumstances because it proceeds from clear peace bases and principles based on resolutions of international legitimacy which must be observed and implemented if progress is sought in the peace process. This is why there is no room for what they call breakthroughs on the Syrian track.

AL-THAWRAH says: If progress is to be made on this track, then this should be preceded by an Israeli commitment to a full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. This is stipulated by the UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper adds: If Israel has enjoyed the separate solutions which have been achieved, it is very deluded if it thinks it can apply this to the Syrian track.

AL-THAWRAH points out that the kind of peace Syria wants and works for must be just and comprehensive, and must proceed from firm bases which can secure all the requirements of true peace in terms of a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon—peace which ends all manifestations of coercion, injustice, and occupation.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria's known peace stand continues to be firm and principled to the effect that this peace should be just and comprehensive. It is either a peace which has all its pillars and conditions, or no peace.

In another commentary, the paper says: We hope that the Washington station will mark a qualitative move

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toward a true peace which we in Syria want to be just and comprehensive and based on resolutions of international legitimacy, and which guarantees security and dignity for all sides. It should be a peace which restores all the Arab rights and territories in the Golan and southern Lebanon, and which is based on the principle of equitability [takafu'] and equality [musawah]. It should not be another station for Israeli prevarication, procrastination, and maneuvering.

AL-THAWRAH says: We are interested in peace and the continuation of the peace process in order to achieve the declared set objective within the framework of the general principles, bases, and terms of reference of this process, and based on our national and pan-Arab constants which are in harmony with resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Certainly, Syria does not and will not allow Israel to make any security gains or privileges at its expense.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: Our peace concepts are obvious and clear. Just as peace and its conditions are an indivisible whole, so is withdrawal also indivisible.

In its commentary today, the newspaper Al-BA'TH stresses the impossibility of jumping over the wall which represents Syria's firm stand. It says: Bypassing Syria is bypassing the impossible. This is why anything Syria does not want will not last. Moreover, Syria adheres to its national and pan-Arab constants. At the same time, however, it is interested in peace as a way to change the painful situation in the Middle East in order to turn it into a comfortable and reassuring situation after each party regains its rights.

AL-BA'TH adds: According to Syrian logic, concessions are rejected. Relinquishing a right or any part of it is an unforgivable crime. As for Israel, it is a force of usurpation and occupation. When Israel ends its occupation, it will then be implementing a peace condition. It will not be relinquishing a right which it does not have.

The paper says: What we do not accept are Israel's attempts to portray its withdrawal from our land which it occupies as a relinquishment of a right. The peace to which we aspire is a peace which has no conditions which put us in the weakest position, especially since peace can only take place between two equal parties [mutakafi'ayn]. Otherwise, it will be a capitulation by the weak to the strong, and we refuse to be the weak.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The key to the region is in Syria's hands. We are the owners of right, and our cause revolves around this right. We tirelessly work to restore this right regardless of circumstances and obstacles.

Column Urges Exports of Surplus Production

JN3003183195 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 1 Mar 95 p 8

[From the "Economic Analysis" column by Jihad al-Na'san: "Exportation is the Solution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A well-known fact of economics says pumping additional funds into a market eventually leads to a general rise in prices. Availability of liquidity leads to an increase in demand which, in the end, raises the rate of inflation and weakens the purchasing power of the national currency.

For this reason, most nations set a fixed percentage for the money in circulation, monitor the situation very closely, and pursue a tighter financial policy whenever they note a rise in this percentage.

We, in Syria, are in dire need of a monetary and financial policy that curbs inflation without obstructing production.

But financial and monetary policies are not enough to achieve the desired objective. These policies must be accompanied by effective steps to help export the surplus production to foreign markets, and therefore make exports cover imports.

Achieving a big surplus in production and then dumping it on the local markets will, sooner or later, lead to a recession. Pumping more funds into the markets in order to dispose of this production is also a gross mistake. Instead, we should pursue a systematic policy which will consider exportation a major national task and the only means to overcome the problem by selling surplus production to foreign markets.

By doing so, we will reap a great benefit, maintain the general outlines of our economic policies, and change the balance of trade in our favor.

The weak point in our economic policies lies in our inability to increase our exports. We are still importing more than we are exporting, and therefore we are exhausting our oil wealth, which finances our imports. Oil is not an inexhaustible source of national income. Yet it makes up over 85 percent of our exports, which is a very high percentage, indeed.

Exportation is the best solution to our economic problems. We should learn from other peoples' experiences. It is inconceivable to stand with our hands tied while other states export in billions of dollars.

It is time we directed our public, private, and mixed sector organizations toward exportation. We must make every company manager accountable for not achieving the desired export target. At the same time, we must simplify procedures and grant more facilities to exporters.

This is the sound course to follow if we do not want to lose anything now or in the future.

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Afghanistan

Government, Taleban Forces Fighting Continues

Clashes at Shindand Military Airport

LD3003120995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Clashes between the Taleban forces and the governor-general of Herat, Commander Esmael Khan, still continue around Shindand Airport in Farah Province of Afghanistan. Shindand is the second largest military airport in Afghanistan.

Other reports indicate that Paghman in western Kabul and Vardak Province have also been the scene of clashes between the Taleban militia and Afghan Government forces during the past few days.

Mas'ud Transfers Units From Panjshir

LD3003131895 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, March 30, IRNA—Head of Afghan Supervisory Council Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has transferred many units of forces under his command from Panjshir to Badakhshan Province over the past couple of days, according to Afghan informed sources.

The sources said the goal behind the move by Mas'ud is to be further prepared for launching heavy attacks on Taleban group, which hold positions west of Kabul.

Panjshir, 80 km north of Kabul, is the most important base of the Supervisory Council, where large number of forces and significant amount of ammunition have been deployed.

Afghan sources believe that government has reinforced its forces around Kabul over the past few days and that Kabul is fully guarded by forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Taleban forces, who are fighting against government forces both south and west of Kabul since last month, have announced that they are planning an attack on the capital city.

According to the sources, Taleban group had dispatched forces from Qandahar to Kabul suburbs and Vardag Province, transferring equipment to the regions from provinces under his control.

Meanwhile, a group of theology students, studying at Afghan theological schools in Pakistani Sarhad Province, have arrived in Afghanistan in the past 10 days to join the Taleban group.

Taleban 'Savagely' Kills 22 People

LD3003185195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A mass grave, containing 22 bodies of people killed by the rebel Taleban group, was discovered today in Chahar Asiab district. A radio-television correspondent, who witnessed the discovery of the bodies, reports: Over 20 bodies, of persons from the Shiite and Hazara communities, had been buried after being savagely killed by the Taleban group.

These bodies have been discovered in a mass grave located near the headquarters of the Taleban in the vicinity of Chahar Asiab. The bodies have been taken out of this grave. The dead persons' hands had been tied behind their backs. The injuries in their bodies reveal that dozens of bullets were fired at each of them.

One of the inhabitants of Chahar Asiab district told our correspondent that these people, together with 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, had surrendered to the Taleban. They had been brought to Chahar Asiab from west Kabul. These people were gunned down at night and their bodies buried in this grave.

Taleban Forces Suffer Losses in Farah

LD3103105695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A report has been received from Afghanistan, indicating that fighting continues between the government troops and the Taleban forces in the western and southwestern districts of Kabul.

The Central News Unit reports from Islamabad that government forces state that they have inflicted some losses on the Taleban group in Farah Province. After smashing their frontline, the government forces advanced in Farah Province.

On the other hand, a spokesman for the Taleban group in Quetta, Pakistan, has announced that the group clashed with government forces near Shindand Airbase. He added: The group has advanced toward the airbase and has repulsed the government attacks in other regions, west and southwest of Kabul.

Shindand is the second most important airbase in Afghanistan.

Schools Reopen in Kabul as Fighting Recedes

LD3003204195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghan authorities announced that with the battle scene receding from the Afghan capital Kabul a large number of schools in the capital have reopened and soon the Kabul University will resume work too.

In the past few days a great part of the propaganda by Kabul radio and television as well as the Afghan Government officials has concerned the need for the reconstruction of the devastation, which has resulted from the fighting in the past three years, and for a return to

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normal life for the Afghan people. That is when the United Nations has designated 1374 [beginning 21 March 1995] as the repatriation year for the widespread return of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

A UN representative in Afghanistan, announcing the news in a meeting with the [acting] minister for refugees' affairs in Kabul, said: In the current year a major plan has been put on the UN agenda for the repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan. He added: As a first step the United Nations is to give relief aid to Kabul refugees.

Acting Prime Minister Leaves for Sudan

LD3003183795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister [title as received], left Kabul yesterday [29 March], at the head of a delegation, for the Arabic Republic of Sudan for a working visit.

At Kabul Airport he was seen off by a number of ministers and heads of prime ministry's departments.

India

Editorial Says U.S. Key to Missile Deployment

BK2803122895 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 27 Mar 95 p 6

[Editorial: "India in a Fix To Deploy Its Missiles?]

[FBIS Translated Text] The firm assertion last week in Bangalore by the scientific advisor to the defense minister, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, that we would not heed any other country's advice regarding our defense preparations, must provide great relief to the Indian people. Minister of State for Defense Mallikarjun, however, while attending an international arms exhibition in Abu Dhabi last Monday, strongly contradicted the statement that the Indian Army had already deployed its Prithvi missiles. We have heard frequently that the United States has warned India to not deploy the missiles. Since the Indian Government is not issuing any appropriate replies to these so-called warnings and denying deployment, the impression is growing that India has started to wilt under the U.S. pressure. Robert J. Einhorn, deputy assistant secretary of state for nonproliferation, asserted to Congress three weeks ago that India had been advised to stop its missile development program and that it must promise that it would not initiate deployment of the missiles in South Asia.

Instead of issuing a categorical statement in response to these statements, Mallikarjun's statement is quite disappointing, especially in light of the Defense Department's earlier statement that India had every right to make proper defense preparations. Indeed India already has given the Prithvi missiles to the Army and the whole world knows it. Last year, during the Republic Day parade, these missiles were displayed prominently. Still, the Army was confused about the status of these missiles. On 15 January while celebrating Army Day and later during the 20 January celebrations, India showed the firmness of its decision by including the missile in the parades.

In a democratic India, no government can survive by compromising on its security interests. This plain fact ought to be understood clearly by the United States. Even in the United States when the Republicans proposed establishing a missile security system worth billion of dollars to protect American airspace, the ruling Democratic Party had no choice but to accept the proposal because the presidential election was due the next year. No candidate for president can dare present to the American people an image of military weakness. Although no Third World power can dare attack the United States with short-range missiles, the U.S. Administration blew this remote possibility into nightmarish proportions and readily consented to the system. Pakistan also has deployed its ballistic missiles in South Asia the same way. This fact cannot be overlooked. The M-11 missile sold to Pakistan by China has already been deployed near the Sargodha air base. Perhaps the United States doesn't see them, but India sees them quite clearly.

The deployment of the missiles would definitely escalate tension anywhere, but in South Asia the deployment of missiles does not increase tension nearly as much as providing training and assistance to the terrorists in Kashmir. To render India incapable of retaliation, Pakistan has not only built a nuclear bomb but purchased ballistic missiles from China that can drop it on Indian soil. The United States declared its intention to impose sanctions on both Pakistan and China, but became daunted by the prospect of heavy economic losses and quickly dropped the idea. Similarly, owing to the Pressler Amendment, the United States won't be able to develop economic relations with Pakistan. So, shunning its drive for atomic non-proliferation, the U.S. Administration has begun efforts to withdraw the Pressler Amendments imposed on Pakistan. It is because of the United States' feigned indifference toward the aggressive defense preparations of Pakistan that the Indian people are suspicious about the true American intentions.

What is specially interesting in this the context is the fact that during the 1970's it was United States which sold many weapons to the shah of Iran, who was considered quite liberal-minded. Now Iran is now sitting at the apex of Muslim fundamentalism and jeering at the United States. Still, the U.S. Administration did not learn its lesson and liberally armed the so-called liberal- minded Muslim leaders of Pakistan to sow the seeds of similar danger in the future. The U.S. Administration is merrily overlooking the nuclear weapons and missile programs of Pakistan to boost its protege's morale against India, without realizing that in Pakistan the anti-U.S. wave is surging so menacingly that Pakistan could become another Iran. If the South Asian region is to be kept free of missiles and nuclear bombs, the United States must

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ensure that Pakistan not only stops its subversive activities in aiding and abetting terrorism to destabilize India, but also ceases to threaten the very sovereignty and solidarity of India. The United States must make Pakistan end its nuclear weapon and missile programs if it wants peace in the region. Only when India is assured of national solidarity and security can it consider stopping the development of missiles and nuclear weapons.

U.S. 'Pressure' on Prithvi Deployment Viewed

BK3103100195 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Mar 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Prithvi in the fridge?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Minister of State for Defence's statement at a defence exhibition in Abu Dhabi that the Prithvi missile has not been deployed by the Indian army is more than a statement of fact. It amounts to the first official admission that Washington has prevailed upon New Delhi to halt the Prithvi programme. In view of the concern in India which this revelation is bound to create, there may well be an attempt to fudge the issue by reiterating Government determination not to jeopardise Indian security or bow to pressure from any quarter. But that would be insufficient to set at rest anxieties about the country's missile programme arising from the constraints placed on it for some time. Following the abortive cryogenic rocket deal with Russia and demarches from European Union countries, development of the medium-range Agni missile has been slowed down. The short-range Prithvi programme has been stalled for at least eight months since user trials were completed and American pressure has a great deal to do with it. In that time, as testimony by US officials before Congressional committees makes evident, the Clinton Administration has conveyed to the Government that it would consider the commencement of serial production of the Prithvi as an intent to deploy the missile. And deployment, US Defence Secretary William Perry pointed out during his visit to India and Pakistan this January, would be regarded by Washington as "clear escalatory action" in the subcontinental context.

It seems clear from the recent remarks of Dr Abdul Kalam that there are different opinions with the defence and scientific establishment about the Indian response to external pressures. But there will be much wider support too in the country for what the Scientific Adviser to the Government said. He stated that "our defence preparedness is based on perception of threat to the nation's security. We cannot go by the suggestions of other countries on such matters". Whatever else these words convey, they certainly state basic principles. The view of western nuclear and missile experts on what does or does not constitute threats to Indian security today or in the future is scarcely relevant or indeed free of contradictions. Even less acceptable are the efforts of weapons-states to impose standards of nuclear and missile abstinence to which they themselves do not try to conform.

International Pressure on Defense Issues Seen

BK2803133995 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 28 Mar 95 p 8

[Commentary by J.N. Dixit: "Nuclear thought police: Ignore the campaign"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In January 30, [as published] The Washington Times carried a despatch quoting classified German intelligence assessment reports to the effect that three Indian companies led by Tata Consulting Engineers were helping Iran to put up a factory for producing two deadly nerve gases, sarin and tabun. The despatch implied that Iran was putting up the facility covertly, claiming that the factories were for producing pesticides and herbicides. The Deputy Chief of the Indian Embassy in Washington, Mr Kanwai Sibai, denounced the report as preposterous, stating that the story was planted to embarrass India on the issue of non proliferation, The Ministry of External Affairs spokesman went one step further, attributing to the despatch the motive of scuttling technological potentialities of developing countries and competition from them.

This is not an isolated case of just one story being planted to generate international pressure on an important developing country. There is a pattern—spread over the last 5 to 10 years. The motive being the same: to prevent to the extent possible technological and commercial potentialities of developing countries which may pose a threat to domination of the international marketplace by the industrially advanced countries; secondly, to ensure that none of the important developing countries achieve technological or advanced capacities which may challenge the existing strategic equation between the great powers and other regions of the world.

Public memory is short. So recalling the pattern of indirect pressure on developing countries is relevant and the pressures are generated through a variety of issues, namely, the size of the armed forces of developing countries and their defence expenditure, human rights, nuclear non-proliferation, dual use technologies, environment, and to cap it all, the required norm of good governance." Towards the end of the last decade, when India initiated very gradual action to expand its navy, to meet its defence as well as economic interests, there was an orchestrated publicity offensive in the media in Australia, in the ASEAN region and in the US, about the threat to strategic equilibrium and economic stability that the Indian Navy posed for the entire Indian Ocean region if it were to become a blue water navy. To further the cause of non-proliferation within the framework of the NPT [Non-Proliferation Treaty] and its discriminatory characteristics, the concept of safeguards on nuclear facilities was expanded to the idea of what in technical jargon is called "full-scale and follow-through safeguards".

This expanded doctrine of safeguards was to cover not only the main facility which came in as safeguards, but

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other facilities and installations which processed the product of the original facility for one purpose of the other up to the tertiary or fourth stage. There were also attempts to cover not only the linearly derivative facilities, but even collateral facilities and installations under the provisions of follow-through and fullscope safeguards. This meant that any country accepting the total stipulations of transparency would subject the entire range of its economic and technological activities to external inspection and restrictions.

Without going into details, the implications of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the regime stipulated by the London nuclear club on the production and sale of fissile material for nuclear energy generation and the various export control regimes on chemical and biological products, are to be noted. All these were formulated by a small group of industrially advanced countries. All of them were justified in moral and normative terms of non-proliferation of weapons and other means of mass destruction and all are claimed to be instruments to prevent sophisticated technologies from falling into the hands of "irresponsible countries." Of course, countries like Iran, Iraq, and Libya are described as "rogue countries". The first five years of this decade have witnessed an accentuation of this phenomenon. The macro level political stance of the advanced countries is that of linking availability of technology, investments and market access to developing countries to their falling in line with stipulations on environment, proliferation, human rights, good and democratic governance, reduction of armed forces and defence expenditure. While these demands and stipulations have been part of official negotiations between countries like India, China, Indonesia, Brazil and Argentina on one hand, and the Western powers led by the US on the other, it is the indirect generation of pressure which is significant and which should be monitored. Take the case of India.

There have been a series of press reports in the Western media about the dangers that India's space exploration programme poses to regional peace and stability in South Asia. This is followed by a series of articles in specialised defence and technology journals about the strategic imbalances that would result from India developing its missile technology. The audio-visual and print media in the West puts out items and programmes at regular intervals questioning the relevance to safety arrangements and motivations of India's developing its own technologies in sophisticated spheres. A case in point is a highly biased and misinformed programme on India's nuclear capacities put out by the Columbia Broadcasting System on February 13, 1994 in which participants asserted that India's nuclear and space programmes are entirely weapons oriented and that its nuclear facilities are unsafe and unguarded.

The Washington Times despatch has come out in tandem with a report by the German Greenpeace movement on India's nuclear programme and its nuclear facilities, asserting that they are unsafe, deliberately unsafeguarded and therefore not only dangerous in terms of objectives of non-proliferation, but dangerous for the very economic and environmental security in the South Asian region. Then there is the annual report on human rights for 1994 submitted by the State Department to the US Congress, in which India is criticised for its "poor human rights record", specially in Kashmir and the North-East. A 30-page segment of this report completely ignored India's democratic traditions, the internal pressures under which it is being sustained and the transparency which India has ensured to convince the world of India's human rights record.

Add to this the periodic critical evaluation of India's labour and environmental policies the overall pattern of pressure becomes clear. China has also been subjected to similar pressure, but its cohesive authoritarian regime, uninhibited by the pressures of democracy, has withstood it with greater success. These non-official and non-governmental reports, evaluations and assessments then become inputs in the official negotiating stances of India's Western interlocutors and result in advocacies about non-deployment of missiles, capping of nuclear technology and restricting India's export of sophisticated technologies.

The remaining years of this decade, commencing with various international conferences being held on these subjects during this 59th anniversary year of the UN, will see these pressures increasing on India and other major developing countries, even on a super-power like China. While not being confrontationist and remaining in the mainstream of international orientations on these issues, India has to assiduously protect its capacities and potentialities, imperative for safeguarding its technological, economic, political and security interests.

Article Views Participation in Arms Expo

BK3003103295 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 30 Mar 95 p 13

[Article by Admiral J.G. Nadkarni: "In arms bazaar, Indian wares made no impact"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IDEX 95, dubbed "the greatest defence show on earth" took place last week right in the middle of the Gulf, in Abu Dhabi. Consequent to the end of the Cold War and the winding down of the defence postures of the Western alliance only two worthwhile arms markets remain in the world. The countries of the Gulf and the newly emerging tigers of the Asean countries.

Up to about the end of the Eighties, the Gulf countries were not much of a market for the world's arms manufacturers. Even the 10-year Iraq-Iran War did not produce much of an arms business. Except for Saudi Arabia, the other countries of the region had modest forces and equipment, commensurate with their size. Sophisticated naval hardware and high value ships were unknown. Saddam Husayn changed all that. His invasion of

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Kuwait was, in a way, timed perfectly. The subsequent Gulf war changed the scenario completely. for the past five years the Gulf countries have embarked upon major arms procurement and modernisation programmes and the manufacturers in the world are competing furiously for a share of the cake.

The United States and her allies have made it clear that there would be a price to pay for the assistance rendered during the Gulf war. The simple quid pro quo was that the Gulf countries would have to prop up the arms manufacturers, whose sales were declining following the end of the Cold War. Saudi Arabia alone signed contracts worth $30 billion with the United States, six billion dollars with UK and three billion dollars with France, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman followed by spending dollars five, three and three billion respectively for arms purchases from the big three.

On the face of it there appears to be a great deal of competition and rivalry between the three major contenders, United States, UK and France. But obviously some understanding to share the spoils has been reached. An order on Lockheeds for F16 is normally followed by a decision to buy a couple of French frigates which probably will have British helicopters on board.

Saddam Husayn plays his part perfectly. Every time the enthusiasm and interest in arms procurement wanes, he makes a threatening move and business picks up again. Just before the opening of IDEX '95 the US defence secretary, as if on cue, warned the Gulf countries about the newly emerging threat from Iraq.

But now, five years after it started there are definite signs that the spending spree is coming to an end. Most of the countries in the region are suffering from an acute shortage of cash to indulge in spectacular purchases. The UAE [United Arab Emirates] remains the only country with some cash and even here the mood during the recent exhibition was much less upbeat than it was two years ago at the time of the first IDEX. Despite expectations no major awards were announced. The total contracts finalised during the four days came to less than half a billion compared to over $5 billion two years ago.

The main problem is the price of oil. Despite some hopeful signs last year, the price remains around $16 per barrel, with most of the developed countries due to come out of the recession, the chances for an increase in the demand for oil and for a consequent price increase appear to be better. On the basis of present projections however the cash available to the major oil producers in the region is likely to be about $44 billion for Saudi Arabia, $15 billion for the UAE and $12 billion for Kuwait. These revenues are hardly sufficient to fill the depleted coffers of these countries. The chances therefore of any major purchases by these countries in the future are remote.

The statistics for IDEX '95 were impressive. More than 50 countries participated in the exhibition and the final count of exhibitions was 566, a 70 per cent increase over 1993. The largest number of exhibitors were from UK with nearly a hundred companies attending. With an assured home market, the American companies rarely exhibited in the old days. Now they take part in a big way, nearly 70 exhibitors at IDEX. France and Germany also had large contingents. Most of these big players had exclusive pavilions all to themselves. So, of course had, Russia. The surprise of the show was the South African pavilion. No one could have suspected South Africa of having such a large, advanced and sophisticated arms industry.

India too participated in the IDEX in a modest way: It was, however, a considerable improvement on 1993. Amng the developing countries India had the largest pavilion, spread over 200 sq metres of covered space. In addition India had hired the same amount of space outdoors to display some of the items produced in the country. Major Indian participants were the defence public sector undertakings, the Ordnance Factories and, possibly for the first time, the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The companies were grouped in a manner that they projected the country's capabilities in aerospace, electronics, weapons and ammunition.

Unlike other defence exhibitions, IDEX also organises, not only a display of weapons and equipment but an opportunity to show their capabilities. Opportunity is given to hold live firing demonstrations at a range nearby. Countries are also invited to send their ships and take specially invited visitors to sea. Some nine countries took up the offer and a total of 15 warships participated. Some of the world's newest ships were present in Abu Dhabi's Port Zayed during the show.

Having proclaimed our intention to step up defence exports, this would have been an ideal opportunity to show off our indigenously built ships, the Godavari and the Kukri class. After having announced earlier that both classes would be represented the government apparently got cold feet at the last moment. The decision to send the ship was cancelled. At the last minute it was revived again and a Kukri class ship was sent. India thus missed a major opportunity to show what we can produce.

The decision not to send the Godavari was unfortunate. As a result of the acquisition of the 'Kilo' class submarines by Iran, the countries of the Gulf are strengthening their anti-submarine forces. The UAE has decided to go in for four frigates. India's defence ship builders could have made a strong big for the programme with the Godavari design. It is difficult to see how our exports can ever take off with such bureaucratic disregard to publicity and a total absence of "hard sell."

The Indian Armed Forces, the fifth largest in the world, were conspicuous by their absence. Apparently the winds of liberalisation, supposedly swirling around New Delhi, have yet to reach the defence ministry. We probably are happy living in a make belief world of our own, letting the rest of the world pass us by.

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Wisner Assures Contracts With U.S. Firms

BK3003135595 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 24 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE BHARATIYA Janata Party [BJP] has assured the visiting former US secretary of state, Dr Henry Kissinger, and the US ambassador, Mr Frank Wisner, that the Shiv Sena[SS]-BJP government in Maharashtra would not scrap any existing project, including the controversial 2,015 mw Dabhol Power Project of Enron and the American food giant Kellogg's unit near Thane.

It is understood that the SS-BJP combine will put up a stern front while reviewing the Enron contract, but things are unlikely to go much beyond that. As a first step the Maharashtra State Electricity Board chairman, Mr Ajit Nimbalkar, and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation chairman, Mr Dhuman, are likely to get the sack.

Dr Kissinger met a team of BJP leaders—comprising Mr Pramod Mahajan, Mr Jaswant Singh, Mr Viren J Shah and Mr Brijesh Mishra—on Wednesday evening with the ostensible purpose of "understanding India's right-wing Hindu party". The discussions were focussed on the BJP's stand on the economic reforms process, the Enron and Kellogg projects and the party's approach towards religious minorities.

A day earlier, Mr Wisner had a meeting with Mr Pramod Mahajan during which the Enron project was discussed. The BJP leader is believed to have shared his view that the Enron project has become a 'mascot' of American investments in India, like Coca-Cola was in the '70s. However, the ruling alliance in Maharashtra was committed to "bring out the facts" regarding Enron before the people.

Although the Shiv Sena has taken a somewhat unfriendly posture on foreign investments, the key portfolios of energy, irrigation and roads—which attract most foreign investments in the state—are with the BJP. Therefore, the final say in the matter will rest with the BJP. The central leadership of the party in Delhi is expected to provide the direction to its ministers in the state.

During his meeting Dr Kissinger asked the BJP leaders as to how they would like to describe their party. The leaders said that the BJP was like the Christian Democratic parties of Europe—the essence was cultural. They added that their's was not a "narrow nationalist concern" which was aimed against minorities. The party's performance in states ruled by them provided testimony to this fact.

Anxious to shake-off its image in western capitals as an anti- reforms political front, BJP leaders are learnt to have assured that the party was committed to bringing about changes in the economy.

Dr Kissinger is understood to have said that the "real threat" was from the menace of Islamic fundamentalism. Today, Congress (I) MP, Mr Murli Deora, hosted a breakfast meeting of leaders of various political parties with the former secretary of state. Dr Kissinger, who supported the idea of India's entry into the United Nation's Security Council, felt that India should play a global role. "At present, all Indian policies is centred around its stand vis-a-vis Pakistan," he said

Kashmir Government To Set Up Rights Commission

BK2603073895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to set up a state-level human rights commission. This was announced by the state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, while addressing a seminar on human rights in Jammu today. In his inaugural address, the chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, Mr. Justice Ranganath Mishra, emphasized the need for spreading the culture of human rights.

Space Chief Discusses Future Programs

BK2903152795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization [ISRO], Dr. Kasturi Rangan, says India will become self-reliant in launcher technology with the first GSLV [Geostationary Launch Vehicle] flight planned for 1997-98. He was speaking to newsmen at Vijayawada. He said INSAT [Indian Satellite]-2C and IRS [Indian Remote Sensing]-1C satellite will be launched by the year end. The ISRO chairman said the INSAT satellite will have extended communication capability along with three transponders to cover the Southeast Asian and Middle East countries.

Dalai Lama's Planned Trip to Japan Discussed

BK2803161195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 28 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, March 28 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, is to leave here for Japan on Tuesday [28 March] on a visit which China has warned could harm relations between Beijing and Tokyo.

Tashi Wangdi, the Dalai Lama's representative in New Delhi, said the Tibetan spiritual leader planned to go ahead with his first trip to Japan in more than a decade, spending 10 days there at the invitation of religious groups.

The Dalai Lama last visited Japan in 1984. Subsequent attempts to visit have been thwarted by pressure on Tokyo from Beijing.

China has warned Japan that the visit by the Tibetan "god-king" could harm bilateral ties and constitute "interference" in Chinese internal affairs.

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A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said the Dalai Lama's visit was aimed at pushing a pro-independence agenda for his Himalayan homeland, which Beijing insists has been part of China since the 13th century.

"It is our request that the Japanese government will put Sino-Japanese friendship above everything else and not allow the Dalai Lama to enter the country so as to avoid any untoward influence on bilateral ties," he said.

The Dalai Lama's visit comes amid a furor in Japan over a deadly chemical gas attack in a Tokyo subway, allegedly by members of a Japanese doomsday cult whose leader has met the Tibetan spiritual leader in the past.

Wangdi said the Tibetan religious leader had met Shoko Asahara, the 40-year-old leader of Aum Supreme Truth, but they could not be described as close.

"His Holiness (the Dalai Lama) has met with him, as he does with thousands and thousands of people from around the world every year, during a visit to India," he said.

Wangdi added that if the allegations against the Japanese sect prove to be true, "then obviously this group goes against everything that His Holiness stands for."

The Dalai Lama, a pacifist and advocate of nonviolence, has lived in exile in India since Chinese troops crushed an uprising in Tibet in 1959.

Iran

German Report Exposes Iranian Intelligence Service

AU3003173595 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 28 Mar 95 p 6

["Excerpts" of report by the German Office for the Protection of the Constitution; date not given: "The People Who Messed About in the Iranian Embassy"—first paragraph is newspaper's introduction; numbering as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iranian-Kurdish oppositionists Sharafkandi, Abduli, and Ardalan were killed in an attack on the "Mykonos" restaurant in Berlin in 1992. According to a hitherto secret report by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution [BfV], clues point to the Iranian Embassy in Bonn. The Berlin Magistrates Court has now included the report among the evidence in the so-called Mykonos trial. We present this document. "Security-relevant" passages referring to the arms deals of the Iranians have been omitted.

1. The Iranian Intelligence Service.

1.1. General Structures and Tasks.

Since the 1979 revolution, various intelligence apparatuses and watch bodies have established themselves in Iran.

The following three official intelligence services are significant:

—The Ministry of Information;

—The intelligence apparatus of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the so-called IRGC armed forces;

—The military intelligence service J2.

According to information from friendly services, the tasks of the above services are as follows:

The Ministry of Information is responsible for domestic security in the civilian and military spheres; the protection of personnel; and the combating of military insurrections (Kurds and other domestic unrest). Abroad, it is responsible for providing support for Islamic movements; implementing terrorist actions; acquiring scientific know-how on the subject of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and delivery technology; purchasing the necessary products for this purpose (proliferation); acquiring weapons plans, and so on.

The military intelligence service J2 is responsible for obtaining information about countries that are enemies or rivals of Iran, research, the internal security of the armed forces, and the purchase of weapons and spare parts (...)

1.2. Political Mission and Function.

The tasks and targets of the Iranian intelligence services are determined by the National Security Council, which has the authority to lay down the guidelines for domestic and foreign security policy. In accordance with this, the intelligence services are charged with the task of safeguarding the primacy of the mullahs by terminating any activity by oppositionist currents and structures. Thus the persecution of dissidents abroad is considered an Iranian domestic affair.

The intelligence services are charged with combating and overcoming unrest among the population by military means. On a foreign policy level, they are charged with preserving national resources as an early-warning system, supporting Iran's efforts to achieve political and military primacy in the Gulf region, and implementing religious leadership in the Muslim countries by sponsoring national armament and nuclear programs with the aid of suitable acquisitions and operations and by providing intensive support for fundamentalist movements in the Muslim countries.

In addition, these services are instruments in the political strife with the "Little Satan" (Israel) and the "Great Satan" (the United States).

2. The Iranian Services in the Federal Republic of Germany.

According to the information obtained by the BfV, all three Iranian intelligence services are represented in

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Germany by legal and illegal residencies, and operate in Germany in accordance with their task.

However, there are cases where it is not possible to attribute a residency or its employees to any of the three services. On account of its significance, the Ministry of Information residency inside the Iranian Embassy in Bonn occupies the center stage in the following scheme.

2.1 The Residency of the Ministry of Information in Bonn

2.1.1. Foundation and Personnel Strength

Iranian intelligence has maintained a residency in the Iranian Embassy since the end of 1986 and the beginning of 1987. The residency was established by and is led by the known intelligence employee Seyyed 'Ali Karim Sobhani, who belongs to the Revolutionary Guards.

Since May 1988, the residency has been led by Ministry of Information employee 'Alireza Haqiqian, whose tenure will probably end in summer 1993 [as published]. At present, Haqiqian is head of a well-staffed residency with about 20 employees. Of the remaining 70 embassy employees, some collaborate with the residency on a regular basis and others do so when the need arises.

With its total of 90 employees, the Iranian Embassy in Bonn is one of Iran's largest foreign missions. The nucleus of the residency is accommodated on the specially-safeguarded third floor, and comprises six offices and a radio room. In accordance with their tasks, and in order to disguise their true work, other residency employees are accommodated in the consular, cultural, commercial, and political departments, as well as in the telex and cipher department (fifth floor).

2.1.2. Tasks and Targets.

According to known information, which corresponds to the evaluations of friendly intelligence services, the Bonn residency is engaged in the following tasks:

2.1.2.1. The detection and observation of the Iranian opposition is a major target of the residency's work, in accordance with its political mission. The Ministry of Information's watch list contains 22 oppositionist organizations and groups of all political colors on German territory.

Because of their domestic political significance, the People's Mojahedin—who are fighting Iran from the territory of the former war enemy Iraq—as well as the insurgent Kurds, especially the "Democratic Party of Kurdistan-Iraq," whose leadership was eliminated in Berlin on 17 September 1992, occupy the focus of research activity. The activities of the Monarchists are also of special interest. Furthermore, Iranian intelligence is concerned with monitoring all coordination efforts among Iranian opposition groups and influential individuals.

In order to supervise the Iranian opposition, in the past the Ministry of Information has established a comprehensive network of informers and agents, of whom the BfV has identified 60.

The residency inside the Iranian Consulate-General in Frankfurt alone maintains a comprehensive network of agents and informers consisting of at least 35 persons.

The tasks issued by the intelligence services to agents and informers concentrate on monitoring and gathering information on the following:

—Meetings and events (with attention paid to participants, statements, and resolutions);

—Demonstrations (participating persons and groups)

—The lives of individual oppositionists (their position within the organization they belong to, address, telephone number, and the identity of regular contacts, especially in Iran);

—The overt and covert objectives of the opposition (especially the establishment of telephone numbers so that contacts in Iran can be put under electronic surveillance).

The most important point of departure for obtaining information and agents is the renewal or issue of personal documents which, in accordance with Iranian regulations, have to be renewed every three or six years. Persons with suitable possibilities of infiltration (for instance, those having contacts with the opposition or access to certain technologies) are normally only issued with a document if they agree to cooperate with the Iranian Embassy, at least for a certain period of time. This cooperation can also be enforced by means of pressure applied to relatives in Iran.

Furthermore, the residency can avail itself of people who have been earmarked by agents and informers, as well as people who offer to cooperate and Iranians who wish to return home. The Ministry of Information also uses agents who were recruited in Iran and who have infiltrated opposition circles in Germany in the guise of asylum-seekers.

The residency also uses video technology to monitor demonstrations and events by oppositionist groups.

The final reconnaissance of the living habits of a target person (usually a leadership functionary), an essential part of the preparations to assassinate him, is carried out by an operational unit brought into the country, before the final act is carried out by a so-called hit team.

2.1.2.3. The residency's third target is the propagation of Muslim fundamentalism (the export of the revolution).

In this connection, the residency—acting mainly under the cover of the Embassy Cultural Department—is concerned with contacts with non-Iranian Muslims in Germany and in neighboring countries, so that it can influence existing group structures in accordance with Iranian interests. At the same time, these contacts serve to establish information on the home countries of target persons and on the Muslim movements therein.

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For foreign policy reasons (sphere of influence) and on account of their numerical status, Turks in Germany and in Germany's neighboring countries are the focus of the intelligence services' efforts to establish influence. Consequent support activity is also concentrated on them. Apart from organizational and logistical assistance, this support lies mainly in the provision of money to preserve the organization and expand its activities in accordance with Iranian interests.

Furthermore, the residency is concerned with the recruitment or deployment of confidants in key positions in order to control these organizations. Apart from Turks, it is mainly Afghans and Lebanese who are the targets of these measures. This work is supported by the Islamic centers and the Islamic Propaganda Organization, which, one can assume, possesses a semi-intelligence background.

The establishment and operation of the Turkish-language radio and television channel TOS in Amsterdam and the control over the "Muslim Movement" (based in Bonn) can be considered successful examples of the residency's work.

2.1.2.4. Apart from the three abovementioned targets, the residency is also charged with exerting influence upon and controlling the Iranian community, which consists of approximately 99,000 people. For this purpose the residency, in cooperation with the Cultural Department, has set up various societies, including the "Union of Iranians" and "Association of Iranian High School Teachers and Academics."

Through these associations, Iran is attempting to promulgate a positive image of itself in order to counter the effects of Western media reports and in order to persuade experts from all fields who emigrated from Iran and who are now urgently needed to revive the economy into returning to their country.

2.1.2.5. The residency is also engaged in gathering information on the Arab countries. In the past, it concentrated on the former war enemy Iraq.

Before he returned to Iran in July 1992, the intelligence employee Abbas-Ali Tafreshi Motlaq, entrusted with these tasks, was in touch with numerous Iraqi students, oppositionists (including Iraqi Kurds), and business people. He also had links with many people who were employed at various positions in at least four Arab diplomatic missions in Bonn. Apart from being interested in information on the country in question, Tafreshi-Motlaq was particularly interested in political relations between the Arab countries and Germany. It has not yet been possible to identify his successor.

2.1.2.6. In view of the altered world political situation and Germany's new role and the consequent political transformations which might affect Iran's political interests, the task of political information-gathering, neglected by the Iranian intelligence services until now, might assume greater importance within the Bonn residency. In this activity, because of the number of open sources, the most important duty should be the evaluation of current political developments and political analyses. But increased monitoring activity by human sources (agents) must be expected at the same time.

There are indications that Iranian intelligence has further human sources similar to the uncovered agent Petross, who worked in the Federal Press Office.

Current plans to open a new Iranian press bureau in Bonn under the auspices of the residency suggest that Iranian intelligence wants to perform increased political information-gathering activity under the guise of journalists. The residency is already cooperating in Bonn with the head of Iranian radio and television.

2.2.2.7. Naturally, the residency is also engaged in defensive measures. These involve the observation of persons employed in the embassy and the protection of facilities in order to counteract attacks from regime opponents.

The residency is also engaged in identifying surveillance activities (for instance, observation) by the BfV and other services, for which it employs the latest generation of scanners. The residency is attempting to counteract the surveillance of communications links (radio, telex, and fax) with Iran by means of computer-controlled encoding systems.

2.1.4. Structure of the Residency

Until now there has not been any first-hand information on the residency's organizational structure. But one can use the tasks and targets described above as a point of departure (...)

2.1.5. Terrorist Connections

In the past, opponents of the Iranian regime and the reports of friendly intelligence services have suggested many times that the Bonn residency is also involve in terrorist activity. But the results of the permanent surveillance measures carried out over the space of several years were unable to confirm this information by September 1992. At the same time, the Rushdie case (January 1990), the surveillance case involving the People's Mojahedin member Kemal Reza'i (May 1990), and the murder of Bakhtiar (August 1991) do suggest a possible involvement.

The attack on the leadership of the Democratic Party of Iraq-Kurdistan on 17 September 1992 and the arrest on 8 October 1992 of the Union of Iranian High School Teachers and Academics member Kazem Derabi, suspected of links with Iranian intelligence, provided the first concrete evidence that the residency was indeed involved in terrorism. .

Several reports from a reliable source, who is in particular need of protection, permit the conclusion that the murder of the Kurds was prepared by the residency and carried out under the code name "Bozorg Allaw."

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Fresh clues point to the residency following the arrest of Iranian operative agent 'Ali Taheri in Paris on 15 November 1992. A businessman from Aachen who looked after Taheri during the latter's stay in Germany is linked to the residency, where he has a friend.

Taheri, who is suspected of complicity in the murder of Kazem Rajavi (Geneva 1990), was apparently once again involved in reconnoitering a target's regular routine, but it has not been possible to identify the target.

2.2. The Military Attache's Office in the Iranian Embassy

The military intelligence service is usually represented by the office of the military attache. Due to the nature of his functions, the military attache normally belongs to the circle of suspected intelligence collaborators because he must cooperate with the military J2.

According to a report from a friendly intelligence service, in 1991 the military intelligence service began to train young officers meant to be posted to foreign missions as employees of the military attache. Because of the dangers to domestic security, the activity of the military attache is accorded only secondary importance. According to information at hand, his work is limited exclusively to the military sphere (the acquisition of weapons, spare parts, and military hardware, as well as the relevant military technology).

2.3. The intelligence service of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC-armed force)

The IRGC intelligence service is to be found in numerous Iranian facilities. So far, employees of this service have been identified in the Iranian Embassy, in semi-private firms, and in branches of Iranian foundations, such as the "Mostaz'afan."

The activity of IRGC employees that has been discovered in Germany so far is concentrated on the acquisition of military materiel; the acquisition of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons (see Paragraph 2.1.1.2.); and security tasks within Iran Air (the posts of chief of security and armed security personnel aboard aircraft).

The IRGC employees identified in Germany so far are in close cooperation with employees of the Ministry of Information residency in the Iranian Embassy.

2.4. Further Intelligence Bases in Germany

According to information obtained up to now, all three intelligence services maintain additional bases in Germany.

The intelligence bases inside the Iranian consulates-general in Hamburg, Berlin, Frankfurt, and Munich are subordinated to the Bonn residency. In the following state or semi-state companies, either intelligence employees have already been identified, or specific employees are suspected of intelligence links:

—The IRI Trade Center in Hamburg;
—Inter Chem Trading GmbH in Hamburg;
—The bureau of the KEYHAN newspaper in Hamburg;
—The office of the Iranian shipping company in Hamburg;
—The Iranian television bureau (Seda va Sima) in Bonn;
—Several state and semi-state companies (for instance Vena in Bonn);
—The "Defense Industries Organization" [English name given] in Dusseldorf, which supplies the Iranian Defense Ministry;
—The ITS firm in Dusseldorf;
—The RUSHD firm in Dusseldorf;
- Iran Air in Frankfurt.

Because of the broad distribution of tasks, it must be assumed that the Iranian services are using other firms as illegal residencies.

3. The Involvement of the Union of Muslim Student Associations [UISA].

In the performance of their tasks, the Iranian services can rely on members of the pro-regime UISA, who provide the personnel for the planning and implementation of activities in the intelligence and terrorist spheres.

According to the information that is known, there are about 10 UISA members collaborating with the residencies. These UISA members also represent the inner leadership circle in Germany. All of them were involved in the disturbances between regime supporters and opponents at Mainz University in 1982.

4. The Current Situation

The increased activity of the residency in investigating and monitoring oppositionist people, this increase having been noted since the middle of 1991, was subject to a further increase following the world-wide storming of Iranian facilities on 5 April 1992, and ended with an attack on the leadership of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan-Iraq in Berlin on 17 September 1992.

Following a period of restraint ordered by Teheran, the Iranian services resumed their usual high-level activity at the end of 1992, continuing to concentrate on the detection and monitoring of the opposition and on the acquisition of military products and technology.

At present, the residency is in a phase of personnel renewal. The intelligence service collaborator Morteza Gholami, who was responsible for monitoring the Iranian opposition and who probably helped plan the murder of the Kurds in Berlin, returned to Iran prematurely. His tasks have been taken over by Ali Ousouli.

The resident, Haqiqian, will probably return to Iran at the end of June 1993. His successor is not yet known. Also, the known intelligence collaborator Mojtaba Bazgor is intent on transferring to Saudi Arabia, which should happen in July or August 1993. Bazgor, who was

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probably also involved in the Berlin attack, is supposed to be replaced by two persons.

5. Evaluation.

Because of the persecution of Iranian oppositionists living in Germany, the activities of Iranian intelligence on German territory represent a danger to German domestic security.

Furthermore, the acquisition of military technology involving sensitive products affects the Federal Republic's foreign interests. According to investigations by this office, the Iranian intelligence services will continue to step up their activities in Germany and further expand their sphere of tasks, whereby political information-gathering will no doubt increase in significance.

In the future, too, the Bonn residency will remain at the center of Iranian intelligence activity, even though the Iranian services are assumed to be intent on establishing further legal and illegal residencies away from the embassy because of the intense supervision to which the embassy is exposed.

It is also to be assumed that the services will become increasingly professional in their work. Apart from an increased use of conspiratorial methods, the application of the most modern intelligence, communications, and surveillance equipment should occupy the forefront of activity.

France's Leotard Says Arms Sale 'Fabricated'

LD3003125495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The French Defense Minister Francois Leotard has said that the claim on the sale of arms to the Islamic Republic of Iran by Paris, recently published in L'EXPRESS weekly, is something fabricated by a foreign country. He said this in an interview yesterday. Not disclosing the country's name, Mr. Leotard stated that the said country competes with France and the French interests in the Persian Gulf.

Political observers believe the French defensce minister is pointing to the United States, which rivals France in concluding arms agreements in the Middle East worth billions of dollars.

Commentary Views Perry Remarks, Arms Exhibition

NC3103115795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Urdu 1330 GMT 30 Mar 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners. The chimerical remarks by the White House echelons, in particular the absolutely false claims made by the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry recently regarding the boosting of Iranian forces and the deployment of chemical weapons on the important islands of the Strait of Hormuz, have once again drawn the attention of political analysts to Persian Gulf issues.

On the other hand, in the past month, there have been visits by various political and military experts to the littoral Arab states of the Persian Gulf which are also linked with the West's propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The White House echelons have been following the policy of sowing discord in this region for a long time. They foment differences among the regional countries and continue their efforts to extend their presence in the Persian Gulf region.

The U.S. Commerce Secretary and Defense Secretary's visits to this region in the span of less than one month are of particular significance. The allegations being leveled against the Islamic Republic of Iran are, in fact, part of the chain of actions initiated by the West to implement its aggressive objectives. Western countries, and the United States in particular, have accused Iran of stepping up troop movements and deploying chemical weapons. It is being alleged that Iran is a danger for the stability and security of all the countries in the region.

On this basis, in order to combat potential danger from Iran, the littoral Arab states are being encouraged to forge military cooperation with the United States and to purchase more weapons. According to political analysts, the convening of the arms exhibition in Abu Dhabi in conjunction with the politico- propagandist activities on the part of the United States and Western countries exposes the overt and covert rivalry among these countries. It is obvious that the U.S. Defense Secretary's baseless falsehoods on Iran's military activities are not unrelated to the aforementioned statement.

The fact is that in order to justify the aggressive policies and the unlawful presence in the region of the West, and the United States in particular, political and propagandist ploys are being used against Islamic Iran. Facts and figures indicate that since 1990-94, Iraq embarked on military action twice in the Persian Gulf, and on both occasions, not only did the military presence of the West spearheaded by the United States expanded, the military budgets of the regional Arab states exceeded $138 billion. Of these states, only Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates spent $65 billion on Desert Shield operations.

The United States has gained the opportunity to sell weapons to these countries, extort their petrodollars, and send its experts to them. Thus, it is seeking to further consolidate its illicit presence in the region. In any case, the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials believe that Persian Gulf security is of immense importance and that defense readiness on one's own territory is a natural and justified action which is being implemented within the framework of international accords.

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More Border Controls Planned With Pakistan

LD3103103595 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati here Friday [31 March] said that this year Iran plans to have more control along its joint borders with Pakistan in an effort to prevent illicit trafficking of narcotics to the country.

In his pre-sermon address to worshippers of congregational Friday prayers at Tehran university campus, Besharati said that Iran blocked about 945 km of its joint borders with Afghanistan last year as part of its anti-drug campaign.

He put the cost of the last year anti-drug campaign at dlrs. 200 million in which 135 tons of opium was seized from the smugglers.

Elsewhere in his speech he termed Iran as the most independent country in the world and said such an independence, freedom and might was indebted to the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The minister remarked that presence of the people in various scenes of the revolution had thwarted such plots as the eight-year imposed war (1980-88), in which 160 countries of the world supported Iraq, and terrorist attempts of counterrevolutionary elements in recent years.

Touching on the anti-profiteering campaign, Besharati said that the government would decisively continue such a program.

Illegal Afghan Refugees Expected To Return Home

LD3003154095 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 30, IRNA—Following a deadline set for return to Afghanistan of the refugees staying in Iran illegally, 100,000 Afghan refugees are expected to return home from this northeastern province, neighbouring Afghanistan.

Those who refuse to return by the deadline will be sent to refugee camps, according to director general of the provincial department for foreign nationals, Gholam-Reza Hoseynpur.

Of the figure 500,000 illegal Afghan refugees have already returned to Afghanistan within the framework of a trilateral agreement between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Iran and Afghanistan, he said.

He added that the Afghan refugees who had no legal permit to stay in Iran have to return home according to the time table. However, special temporary facilities will be provided for those whose children are currently attending school or have specific problems.

Each returning refugee will be provided with a sack of flour and a sum of money, he added.

Hoseynpur further said that the necessary facilities will also be made available to any of the 200,000 legal Afghan refugees, living in Khorasan Province, who wish to return to their homeland.

Pakistan

JUP Chief: CIA Involved in Karachi Violence

BK3003152995 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, March 29—Chief of Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan [JUP] Shah Ahmed Noorani has alleged that the American CIA is involved in the violence in the country, particularly in Karachi.

Talking to a two-member delegation of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] (Haqiqi), comprising Chairman Afaq Ahmed and Vice-Chairman Badar Iqbal, which called on the Maulana in his office on Wednesday, the JUP chief said the government, under "a well-thought out plan", is creating such conditions to appease the American masters, endangering the security of the country.

The need of the hour, he asserted, was that those who created Pakistan should come forward to play an effective role in saving the country.

He said the government is following a "divide and rule policy." As such, it has made Karachi the target for achieving its aims, he said.

At present, he said, the government is busy "in filling its coffers through loot." Consequently, the whole country has 'become victim of lawlessness and "the constitution and the rule of law are torn apart", he added.

The delegation apprised the Maulana of the prevalent situation in Karachi owing to American interference in the country.

Afaq Ahmed said that 70 Pakistanis had been killed in America, but not a single killer was arrested. Neither the Pakistan government took any action in the matter nor our embassy lodged an FIR [First Information Report] in this connection, he said.

But hundreds of innocent persons have been arrested here following the murder of two Americans in Karachi recently, he said.

The delegation also informed the JUP chief of the atrocities being committed by the police on innocent persons.

Present on the occasion were Prof Shah Faridul Haq, JUP senior vice-president, Soofi Ayaz Khan Niazi, Mohammed Ahmed Siddiqi and Karachi JUP president Mohammed Siddiq Rathore.

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Crackdown, Search For Ramzi Causes Arabs To Leave

BK3103094095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 31 Mar 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar—Feeling Increasingly insecure after the government's latest crackdown to seek out associates of suspected World Trade Centre Bomer Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, the small Arab community employed in Islamic relief agencies are packing up.

"Enough is enough, being Arab has become a crime here", said an angry Arab of African origin. The Arab community now limited to just over a hundred and fifty in Peshawar, feel the operation to nab Ramzi's connections has become a tool at the hands of the police, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and Special Branch to harass them and extricate money through blackmailing. "The price of freedom ranges from anywhere between Rs 5,000 to a computer."

That the paranoia to round up all the moving souls speaking or looking Arab in connection with Ramzi Yusuf, has made a mockery of the whole operation is evident from the arrest of three people in Peshawar the other day. Knowledgeable sources said the three Arabs—two Libyans and a Saudi national—were arrested from the house of an Arab who wanted to dispose of his furniture before leaving Pakistan in the next few days. "The whole operation has turned into a money-minting exercise", was how an Arab put it.

The irony however, is that the Arabs arrested or taken into custody in the last few days had security clearance and possessed the so-called yellow cards from the Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees. Secondly, they were allowed to work in the international relief agencies after the NGOs [Nongovernment Organizations] on government orders terminated the services of Egyptian, Algerian and Tunisian nationals and forced them to leave Pakistan although to countries of their choice except Afghanistan.

The case of Zahid Ash-Shaikh, regional chief of Mercy International is a case in point. The Kuwaiti born Shaikh enjoyed tremendous respect and influence among the government officialdom. It was not for nothing that President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari attended the inaugural ceremony of an orphanage in Peshawar on February 28, 1993, in which 'Ramzi's maternal uncle read out a welcome address. "The kind of atmospshere prevailing in the interior ministry manifests that these NGOs will have to go", commented a senior official. "Believe me, nobody wants to stay here any longer after the latest arrests", said a colleague of Dr. Baha—a lecturer at the Islamic University of Science & Technology in Hayalabad—one of the five expatriates arrested for alleged connection with Ramzi.

Dr. Sahim a naturalised Pakistani of Syrian origin and director of a relief agency was picked up and was being held in detention because Ramzi was believed to have talked to Fazlullah Hamidi on his phone, a Balochi from Punchkur who lived in the upper-storey. Interviews with people living in Khyber Colony and those who know him suggest that he appears to have no connection with Ramzi. The Chowkidar of the flats Ghulam Mohammad, from where the five of the suspects were arrested said the Iranian, Ibrahim Rasul (who later turned out to be a Balochi), used to frequent Fazlullah. It in fact was Ibrahim Rasul from whom Ramzi got Dr. Salim's phone number to enquire from his Balochi friend the whereabouts of a relative he was expecting in Peshawar. Ibrahim had earlier admitted during interrogation by the CID [Criminal Investigation Department] that he lied to the UNHCR about his antecedents and that he had also made up the story about the killing of his father in Iran and his subsequent escape to Pakistan. He also told interrogators that he ended up marrying the daughter of his jailor after he was caught by the mojahedin of Sayyaf's Ittehad-e Eslami in Afghanistan.

The same was the case with the three Sudanese, Dr. Baha for instance graduated from Sindh University, Jamsharo, in 1983. His friend colleague and a compatriot Azhari who knew Baha from the university days and remained his room mate said the Sudanese were implicated in cases to punish them for having an Islamic government in the country. The three Sudanese lived in the same building housing Dr. Salim and the Baloch.

"There is nothing against them, the whole story of their Ramzi connection is cent percent false", said Dr. Jameel vice president of the Islamic University of Science & Technology where Dr. Baha, and Fadel Omar were taught. [sentence as published] Significantly, all the three expatriates and the remaining three Pakistanis at Adiala Jail have been rendered incommunicado. Requests by the Sudanese Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Omarabi to meet its nationals was not entertained for a long time, Sudanese in Peshawar informed.

"The situation has become grim, it is difficult to continue our operation—we are thinking of closing down the university by the end of the current academic year", said Dr. Jameel.

Many officials conform to the increasing insecurity among the NGOs and consideration among the Arab relief workers to eventually pack up and go home. Assistance from international organisations for the Afghan refugees has already dried down to a considerable level and closure of the relief agencies would firmly put a tap on whatever little is received by the one and a half million Afghan refugees living on Pakistani soil.

Muhajir Head Threatens Protest During Bhutto's U.S. Visit

BK2903161095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leading Pakistani muhajir [Indian migrant] leader and founder of Muhajir International Forum, Dr. Bezar, has threatened to go on hunger

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strike and do self-immolation against Islamabad's inaction in the face of continuing killings of muhajirs in Karachi. Dr. Bezar told PTI in New York that he, along with his followers, will carry out the decision during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States next month. He also demanded a separate province for muhajirs in Pakistan, saying that it would enable them to keep their culture alive and safeguard their lives and property.

Sharif on Talks With MQM Head, U.S. Relations

BK3103083795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Working Committee of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group, which met in Islamabad yesterday, discussed the situation in Sindh. According to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, the committee supported the efforts of the party and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] for restoring peace in Karachi. Party leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, who chaired the meeting, said his talks with MQM leader Altaf Hussain were aimed at putting an end to the violence.

Sharif said ties between Pakistan and the United States should not be based on individual relationships, but rather on the basis of contacts between nations.

Leghari Receives MQM Delegation in Karachi

BK3103112295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A three-member Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] delegation called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in Karachi yesterday. The president urged the MQM to cooperate with the government in restoring peace in Karachi. The talks, held amid a cordial atmosphere, took place in two rounds. The MQM delegation was led by Shoaib Bukhari, deputy MQM leader in the Sindh Assembly, and included Tariq Javed and Advocate Qazi Khaled.

Akhtar Hamid Khan, director of Orangi pilot project, also called on the president and briefed him on his project.

Leghari Visits Ormara Naval Base Site

BK3103085395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has instructed the Pakistan Navy that local resources should be used, with the cooperation of the Balochistan Government. He added that basic facilities should be improved and local people trained in various areas so that they may have better employment opportunities. The president expressed the hope that the establishment of a naval base at Ormara will promote the fishing industry, which is the main source of income for people living on the Balochistan coast.

Leghari expressed these views while attending a briefing on the naval base project in Ormara. He inspected the naval base, which is being constructed about 200 km west of Karachi on the Makran coast. He said he has been deeply influenced by the development work done in the coastal areas and that he believes this naval project will prove to be a great accomplishment. He hoped that the naval base, which will be completed by the end of next year at the cost of 4 billion rupees, will provide good alternative harbor facilities to the Navy. The president said the Ormara settlement should be developed so that the the local population can achieve greater employment opportunities and improved civic facilities. The president approved Jinnah Naval Base as the name for this historic and memorable project.

Naval Chief Admiral Mansurul Haq Malik, while briefing the president, said that after the completion of the base the Navy will be self-sufficient, especially in repairing submarines and other facilities. He said the government has already approved establishment of a submarine dry dock complex in Ormara.

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